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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91176791
Party	Defendant MATTEL, INC.
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Submission	Defendant's Notice of Reliance
Filer's Name	Chad R. Fitzgerald
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the matter of Application Serial No. 78/751,105 Published for Opposition in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE on December 12, 2006				
UMG RECORDINGS, INC.	Opposition No.: 91176791			
Opposer				
v.				
MATTEL, INC.				
Applicant	•			

APPLICANT'S NOTICE OF RELIANCE RE: PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Vol. 6 of 7

denverpost.com

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Paige: Motown's spirits get a lift

By Woody Palge The Dervet Post

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DETROIT - Beauty killed the besats.

Durrell Summers seized the final rebound, then hugged his fellow guard, hometown friend and teammate Katin Lucas, and Michigan State. Spartan Nation and a spartan, but strong city and state seized the moment.

North Carolina then seized control early on in the late one and eventually won by 14.

And in the "Sesson of the Big East Conference," the NCAA basketball champion will come from the ACC or the Big Ten.

When Detroit and Michigan needed a breakout more than a ballout, Michigan State, like the underday Spartans at Thermopylae, provided the stimulus Saturday evening.

Michigan State defeated Connecticut, and North Carolina whipped Villanova to be the Last Two of the Final Four. "Not only were we playing for our team and our school, we were playing for our city and our state," Lucas said after the Spartans' imposing victory over Connecticut. "This is special for all of us."

It is particularly significant for Lucas and Summers.

They are from neighborhoods near Ford Field. They understand the hard times in Detroit. They are trying to help their folks, friends and fans have some feel-good fun in a feel-bad fail.

The Final Four-record throng of 72,456 was dominated by the Michigan State faithful, which included a man named Magic who led the Spartans to an NCAA championship 30 years ago.

These Spartans produced their own magic show.

Lucas, Big Ten player of the year, and Summers, a sophomore quaid off the bench, combined for 31 points, six assists and eight rebounds.

There's no place like home.

This game was about the Defroit due, the six other players from Michigan and a forward from Canton, Ohio, (back from mono and a broken nose), in the first six minutes of the game, coach Tom Izzo utilized 11 players, and the Spartans kept flying at and firing at the Huskies. Resilient Michigan State led by two at the haif and proved tougher in the second half, taking if to Connecticut and 7-foot-3 center Hasheem.



denverpost.com

Turn Thadast around.

Izzo said Lucas "did a lot . . . and Durrall got some big rebounds, so our two Detroit guys came through. And we love Detroit."

Summers lives only a couple of miles from Ford Field. He had to switch high schools after his exphannors season because his school closed. His taker worked for General Motors, his mother at a Detroit Hospital. Both have been laid off.

They work partitime for the U.S. Postal Service and look for permanent jobs in an area that has gone from Motown to Workswin.

Duryea and La'Andrea Summers, Kanneth and Tina Lucas were all pleased, proud parents in the stadium Saturday.

Three nights age Durrell's mother and father took a bus to the Mishigan State team hotel to help him celebrate birthday No. 20. Security overds wouldn't let them.

On his birthday, "Guess what I wished for?"

Luces' parents "tuckily still have their jobs," Kalin said, "but I've got friends' parents who are out of work.

"This is a dream come true . . . Aw, man, it's great. Spartan tens, we love you all, and we love Detroit."

Lucse came up with big shots (three 3-pointers) and tout shots (four in the last minute).

Summers picked his spots and picked apart the Huskies.

With 10:21 left. Summers swithed a vey.

With six minutes remaining, the Super Summers Stam, the play of two games, gave Michigan State a 10-point lead. "Our prowd and the bench work crazy, and I think

Submit Your Question

The Densor Post's
Strongy Page

sports columnist Woody Paige finds your questions. Look for Woody's Malibag every Thursday.

that made us put on the gas." Summers said.

With 2:19 in go, and UConn clawing back, he motored in the city for a layup, then shother, and a feet throw, with a minute on the clock. Endgame.

'Nova was 'ove against North Carolina despite crawling to within five points in the second half.

But the prowd went away humming a Bob Seger time --- "Night Moves."

Luces and Summers played AAU hall and were recruited by Izzo to Michigan State with the



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motivation that they could play in the Final Four at home. Lucas has been fisted all season as a native of Sterling Heights, Mich., but he was announced Saturday as being from Detroit.

"It was my decision," he said. "I have a grandma who lives two minutes from (Ford Fleid). I have lived with my granny before, and I have lived with my parents. Today i wanted to represent Detroit."

ise and Summers get to represent Dehoit, Michigan and the Spartans one more time, against Chapel HBI. North Carolina and the Tar Hasis, it will be a beauty.

Weady Paige: 303-954-1095 or wpalge@denverpost.com



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April 5, 2009

Plowing new ground

Urban farming could help rejuvenate Motown

The tens of thousands of people pouring into Detroit this weekend for the NCAA basketball championship no doubt are enjoying Motown's casinos, clubs, restaurants, hotels and other attractions.

But it also would be hard for them to miss the vast chunks of vacant land where houses, businesses and factories once stood. The barren landscape betrays all the recent efforts to improve Detroit's image.

Yet how do you transform such desolation in a once-mighty city that has lost roughly half its population?

What about urban agriculture? That is what John Hantz, CEO of Hantz Farms LLC, is proposing. Hantz, a Detroit resident, wants to take vacant properties and develop them into viable commercial farm operations, providing fresh, locally grown food for Detroiters while at the same time creating jobs and enhancing the city's tax base.

He plans to start with 70 acres on the city's lower east side and grow fruits and vegetables to meet the increasing demand for locally grown produce.

Hantz is tapping into the agricultural and soil-science expertise available at Michigan State University, as well as consulting with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which has invested substantial resources in developing community-based food systems.

Eventually, Hantz would like to expand his operations to include harvesting wind energy and utilizing geothermal heat and biomass fuel from recycling compost.

While agricultural development in the heart of a major city may seem unorthodox, we see many advantages. Not only would it help Detroit eliminate blight and rejuvenate large areas of vacant property, but local residents would benefit from the increased availability of fresh food as well as employment opportunities.

What makes the concept even more exciting is the fact that Hantz is not just somebody with a good idea but few resources. He has built his financial holding company, Hantz Group Inc., into a 550-employee operation with 23 offices in Michigan and Ohio. His business expertise is coupled with his dedication to Detroit, where he is involved in numerous civic efforts and has overseen restoration of 11 homes in the city's historic Indian Village neighborhood.

We hope Hantz's idea not only flourishes in Detroit, but serves as a model for other cities to restore their core areas and enhance their economies. It would indeed be ironic if the Motor City finds new fortune down on the farm.



April 5, 2009

Pride not pity should be Detroit's Finals legacy

BY MITCH ALBOM FREE PRESS COLUMNIST

It will not save us. No basketball game can do that. No matter who wins Monday night, Tuesday morning the jobs still will be gone, the factories still silent and empty, the houses still for sale or abandoned altogether. The out-of-town media who see a national championship tonight at Ford Field as some uplifting salve for downtrodden Detroit are a bit misdirected.

It's not our mind-set we're trying to change.

It's yours.

Because this bash Motown is hosting is not meant to be a pity party. We don't want sad headshakes on your way out of town. As Tom Izzo said today, "There are a lot of cities out there that have problems; this is ours." And he's right. This is our city, but it's your America. What the rest of the nation is suffering, we went through first. And if our leaders aren't wise, what we're enduring now, you may endure next.

You can't cut off your manufacturing arm and expect to build. You can't outsource everything and expect to lead the world. And you can't treat blue-collar industry as a bunch of dumb rivetheads who need the government to run them, while allowing the banking world to do as it pleases with taxpayer money.

It wasn't the auto industry that shot a hole in the side of America.

A light in the middle of the tunnel

We don't want you to pity us; we want you to notice us. Notice what is happening to the middle class—which was invented in these parts—just as you notice what these Michigan State kids in green jerseys are doing in this basketball tournament. What they're doing is what neighbors around here do when one is laid off, what churches here do when someone can't afford an operation. As Kalin Lucas, raised in Sterling Heights, said today, "It's a storm in the city. We're trying to bring sunlight to it."

It's called taking care of each other.

Through all the injuries and setbacks, these Spartans, like their state, have kept their heads down and their belief up. Now they have reached the end of the rainbow, with kids like Raymar Morgan, who lost his way and found it again, and Goran Suton, who returned from injuries to even higher form, and Travis Walton, who has played all four years and was dead set on not letting his career end one game shy of its maximum. Who knows where he'll go next, or how far? "But when it's your last time around, you want to make your biggest bang," he said.

It was Walton and his senior teammates who decided what to yell in their team huddles. They chose the word "family."

Not "win!" Not "kill!"

Family.

We're all in this together

That, too, is what we want you to notice. How folks here embrace our roots, rather than run from them. We dream of greener pastures, but we want them in our backyards. Sure, we're a tad provincial, we make too much of a local fudge or an auto show or a hockey team. But as Walton said in the celebration after the upset Saturday over Connecticut, "We're not a superstar team. We're a family. When you're a family, it's not the Kalin Lucas family or the Travis Walton family. It's the Spartans family."

And within our state, it's the same thing. Which is why Detroit and East Lansing are mingled so seamlessly in this Final Four. It's the Michigan family. It's Izzo talking about growing up in tiny Iron Mountain, or Marquise Gray from hardscrabble Flint, or Durrell Summers from Detroit, who, when asked if he knew anyone who'd lost a job, said, "My mother, my father, my cousin, I could go on..."

It will not save us, this game, we know that. But for a brief moment, we have the nation's attention. Whatever stories get written, let them talk about pounding away, doing things right, asking only a workman's due, but asking nothing less. Let them talk about family and perseverance and what it can accomplish. Let them talk about traditions worth celebrating and preserving.

That way, no matter what the final score, they'll be talking about the basketball team AND the state it occupies. The Spartans want to make a memory out of what you're witnessing here. The rest of us don't want you to forget.

Contact MITCH ALBOM: 313-223-4581 or malbom@freepress.com.

Michigan State beat writer Shannon Shelton will chat with fans about the national championship game at 2 p.m. Monday at freep.com/sports. Get your questions ready!

TwinCities com

Red Wings down Wild with late goal

Ely Brian Murphy Phonese Press

Space : 0x000000 (80x108 544 007

DETROIT — If it's Motown, if means headache for the Minnesota Wild. Sunday was just the latest edition.

Marian Hossa's gost with 54.3 seconds remaining enspired a tile and lifted the Red Wings to a 3-2 victory at Joe Louis Arena.

Having railed from a 2-0 deligit and being dominated throughout the afternoon, the Wild seemed destined to secure at least a crudal point in

the standings in their desperate quest to clinch a Western Conference playoff berth.

But the punk controlling filed Wings took adventage of a linst, fetal Minnesota mistake to further dim the Wild's postsesson hones.

Eric Belanger fell down at center ice, allowing Hosss and Tomas Homstrom to break in 2-on-1 against beleaguered goalie filixias Bachstrom. Hossa cashed in

The lose was Minnesota's ninth in its test 10 trips to Joe Louis Arens as Detroit improved to 21-5-6 against the Wild since 2000-01 — second best of any team versus the Wild (New Jersey, 1778).

After failing to score during a dominant first-period power play, the Red Wings caught a huge break when Nick Schultz's pass to James Sheppard in the comer caromed off referee Miles Hasenfratz

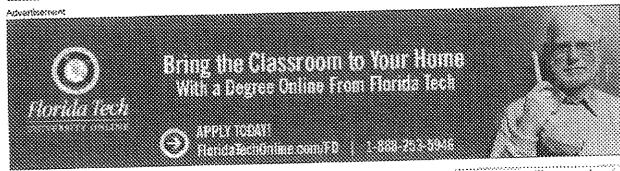
Zetterberg pounced on the free gift and quickly fed Jin I-traffer in front, and before the Wild could even curse their horrid luck, the Red Wings were calebrating the game's first goal.

It only took 64 seconds for Detroit to double its lead during another forechecking seminar

Datayuk finished an endless cycle with dazzling moves in the slot, twisting defensemen Martin Skoula into a pretzel and deking Backstrom to the loe before patiently fispoing a backhander under the crossbar for bis 32nd goal of the season

However, no lead is eafe this season with Detroif's regressing goalie Chris Osgood, who entered play with leaky .884 save percentage — worst among NHL starters

Oegood gave Minnesota a booster shot when he



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TwinCities «com

corralled Skoula's dump-in and casually created it up the near boards where Cal Clusterbuck was the only player within 10 feet.

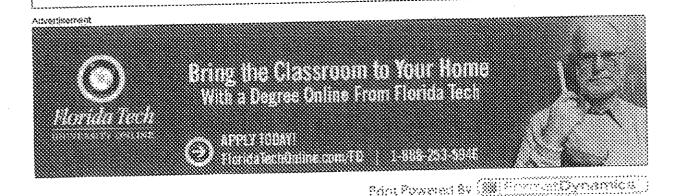
He one-timed the puck into the far corner before Osgood could retreat to the crease, and with 1:26 left in the first period, Minnesota was right back in it despite being out and 16-7.

Detroits dominance continued in the second. A glance at the shot board late in the period betrayed a 34-11 advantage for the Red Wings. Adding to the disadvamage, Minnesots lost key defensemen fillulus Schultz to an eye injury in the second period.

Yet the Wild lingered like an annoying housequest and managed to be the game with another late goal.

Marien Gebork, invisible through 38 minutes, bagged his 10th of the sesson and severth in eight games since returning from hip surgery.

Clutterhook do the drify work against two defenders in the slot, keeping the puck alive for Gaborik to being it in with 1:03 remaining





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The Soul of Motown: Sparlans Battled to Rebuild Detroit's Dignity April 05, 2009

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By Make Mecoure

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Up in the latters at Pard Sleet, high above the businessal Slice, a green-and lende sign process acctanes the difference for the Searters then for the other tolons assembled here. Up these, it removes the scenic, and the most, proc tion tonicing, thing, is only 92 miles away from Detroit. There were 70,000 morphs expected to 08 treadment and right, and it was expected outtreason. The aborine alternative ratio of

They originic have sond obligace delicase titled of Stock earth, when without this ingen latere's here. But is modifies and real die foot that this grank was sectors to have. Ever drive the NUSA modified from Proc. out of beginetboth enemals and time the connecticity, and other steelile, syndrome of decrees, it has been tready දිපතරනුවේල් විය අනුස්දුරුවල වෙන වෙසර කි මිල්වේ.

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tion recitating have in the first flow. We being a Historian Heart making, it can bring a simple to recordingly backdoes in the day of detroit."

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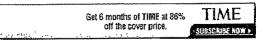
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Spartans, Tar Heels In Motown Showdown

Tribune wire report

The Tampa Tribune

For the Michigan State Spartans, there really is no place like home.

Just ask Connecticut.

Playing 90 miles from their East Lansing campus, the Spartans gave a state desperately needing something to rally around just that Saturday, beating UConn 82-73 at Ford Field in Detroit to advance to Monday night's NCAA championship game.

Michigan State's opponent will be the North Carolina Tar Heels, who ended Villanova's run with an 83-69 victory in the nightcap.

UNC beat Michigan State 98-63 on Dec. 3 at Ford Field.

About.com Detroit

Information About Motown Motion Picture Studios in Pontiac

By Laura Stemberg, About.com

Apr 6 2009	
Several movie studios are being developed in Michiga	an, including Motown Motion Picture Studios in Pontiac

Type:

Film studio and production facility with nine sound stages

Location:

The Motown Motion Picture Studios will utilize 600,000 square feet of the former General Motors Centerpoint truck plant. It will be run by Raleigh Studios out of Los Angeles, and A.Alfred Taubman is an investor.

Cost:

\$54 million to \$70 million

Jobs Created:

3,500 to 5,100

Size:

600,000 square feet

Michigan's Contribution:

MEDC-approved tax credits

Expected Completion:

90 days

Website:

Motown Motion Picture Studios1

This About.com page has been optimized for print. To view this page in its original form, please visit: http://detroit.about.com/od/jobsbusiness/a/Motown_motion_picture_studios.htm© 2009 About.com, Inc., a part of The New York Times Company. All rights reserved.

Links in this article:

1. http://www.motownmotionpictures.com/

The Spectrum Online

Mood swing in Motown April 6th, 2009 DAVID SANCHIRICO - Sports Editor

As numerous Bulls fans saw on their trip to the Motor City for the Mid-American Conference Championship in December, Detroit is not in good shape.

The Big Three automotive manufactures are falling like Humpty Dumptys and jobs are harder to find in the city than a good player on the Detroit Lions. With an unemployment rate of 22 percent and growing, Detroit has fallen into a state of misery on par with The Great Depression.

But a college basketball team from East Lansing, Mich., has given the folks of Detroit Rock City some comfort and a distraction from their real-life struggles.

In front of a pro-Spartan crowd at Ford Field on Saturday, the Michigan State Spartans used an inspired defensive effort to knock of the favored UConn Huskies, 82-73. The victory advanced the Spartans to Monday's National Championship Game, where they will play North Carolina.

This was the best time for an upstart team from the Wolverine State to capture the imagination of a dying community. We're talking about a city within a state that has not received good news for nearly a year now. The morale of Detroit's citizens is declining as job losses increase and money is damn near nonexistent.

The Spartans have seen this, taking upon themselves to revive some of the pride and joy in the broken city.

Seems like a lot of pressure for a bunch of kids, many of who are still teenagers.

But the Spartans have enjoyed providing some light during Detroit's dark days. They see their road to the National Championship as a joy ride for the team, the campus, the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan, all feeling the effects of Detroit's meltdown.

"I always said as a player, you a chance to be a difference-maker, a role model, a chance to do things to make other people smile," said Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo in an interview with USA Today.

The fact that Michigan State is playing the Final Four in Detroit has not only given the community delight. It is providing a little financial help for the city.

Saturday's semifinal games brought in 72,456 paying customers, most of who were wearing the green of Michigan State. Once the Spartans clinched a Final Four birth after beating Louisville two Sundays ago, fans grabbed their tickets instantly. There could be even more people at Ford Field on Monday night.

The Spartans will have the fan advantage in Ford Field, but more importantly, they will also have the support of the nation.

This nation is one that loves underdogs. North Carolina will most definitely be the favorite against

Michigan State after crushing the team by a whooping 35 points in December.

On a broader level, the nation will be rooting for a Michigan State victory to provide a bottom dog city going through a major crisis with a celebration.

Too bad I have money riding on a North Carolina victory.

http://spectrum.buffalo.edu/article.php?id=40072

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Phone: 716.645.2468 Fax: 716.645.2766



Motown Woes Weigh on Adworld -- but Not as Much as You'd Think

Agencies, Media Are Less Reliant on GM, Chrysler Spending Than in Past

By Ad Age Staff

Published: April 06, 2009

Exposure to GM, Chrysler

Top 15 media properties (TV, magazines, newspaper) in 2008

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22.7	9 Motor Trend	6.1
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Source: Ad Age DataCenter analysis of TNS Media Intelligence data

NEW YORK (AdAge.com) -- Now that the Obama administration has taken the wheel at General Motors and Chrysler, the agency and media worlds are anxiously watching the two marketers, who together poured \$3 billion into U.S. advertising last year, careen toward bankruptcy.

While there's still plenty of uncertainty -- whether Chrysler will link with Fiat, whether GM will emerge with four major brands or two, whether either will ultimately escape Chapter 11 -- it's a good bet the two automakers will be spending at vastly decreased levels. That will undoubtedly hurt agencies and media companies. But most, seeing this coming, have long been taking steps to mitigate the damage.

"This would be a very different conversation if everything we had lost in the last five years was being lost in late fourth quarter and right now," said Brett Wilson, senior VP of advertising at USA Today, one of the top 20 recipients of GM and Chrysler ad spending last year. "The tobacco industry was kind of the guillotine: They were in and then they were out. The domestics have been conditioning us for less revenue dependence for a long time."

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Ad Age tracks where GM and Chrysler are spending their money.

"These are good partners of ours," Mr. Wilson added. "They're just not carrying me anymore."

An Ad Age DataCenter analysis of the auto giants' measured media spending from TNS Media Intelligence shows that the media properties most dependent on GM by share of total ad dollars, unsurprisingly, are auto titles. For example, Source Interlink's Automobile Magazine derived 21% of its ad dollars last year from GM, and sibling Motor Trend 16.2%. Motor Trend collected 3.6% of its 2008 ad dollars from Chrysler. Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S.'s Car and Driver got 10.1% of its \$20.6 million in advertising from GM last year but only 1.3% from Chrysler, while Hachette's Road & Track received 9% of its ad dollars from GM and 2.1% from Chrysler.

Steve Parr, president of Source Interlink Media, said it's important to remember that the publisher's parent collects more than \$2 billion in annual revenue. "We have a wide and diverse customer base," he said. "It is also clear that many of the great GM brands will continue to exist, and we have no reason to expect that they will not continue to advertise with us."

TV diversity

Though GM spent a lot more with the TV networks -- some \$229 million with CBS alone -- they received a relatively low percentage of their revenue from the country's largest auto marketer. None of the Big Four TV networks got more than 3.5% of its revenue from GM last year. The percentage was even lower for Chrysler; the most exposed was Fox, which took in only 1.1% of its ad dollars from the automaker last year.

Even so, there's real danger of losing revenue. "All you can really do is try to replace the American automakers with Toyota, Hyundai, Kia and Audi," said Neal Pilson, former president of CBS Sports. "You don't want to do it in a way that disrespects those relationships, but your job is to maximize revenue for your company. So you dance a little jig with it."

The History Channel, once a major Detroit target, today has no major deals with domestic automakers. Its largest auto advertisers are Hyundai, Honda and Subaru. "We saw this coming three years ago and knew we had to diversify," said a History Channel executive.

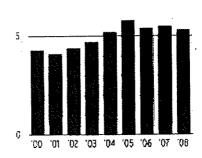
The silver lining many in media are hoping for is a share of spending for a proposed marketing campaign from the Obama administration to reassure consumers if one or both of the automakers declares bankruptcy.

The Wall Street Journal, No. 20 on the list of GM and Chrysler media partners last year, is gearing up to fight for a piece of any industry messaging or corporate positioning campaigns. "There are two things we have that are key to our relationship," said Michael Rooney, chief revenue officer at Dow Jones, the News Corp. division that owns the Journal. "One is we sell cars, and the second is the opinion leaders and the influence that GM can have through the pages here. That's very powerful, and I don't know what other media properties can say that. So going forward I think we're in a very good

M GM AD COSTS

GM spent \$5.3 billion on worldwide advertising last year, down from 2005's record \$5.8 billion





Source: Ad Age DataCenter analysis of GM filings

position to build up the companies moving forward as well as moving metal."

Optimism in bailout

For the most part, the industry is hopeful that the Obama administration will recognize the importance of advertising. "I'm not sure that government intervention in ailing companies will dramatically affect advertising spending -- at least it shouldn't," said Nancy Hill, president-CEO of the American Association of Advertising Agencies. "To pull back at this time would be to do so at the peril of the companies that the Obama administration is looking to support."

So far, the administration hasn't spoken about launching an incentive-based campaign that could spark consumer interest and purchase activity. But President Barack Obama did discuss a public-relations campaign the Internal Revenue Service was launching to alert consumers to a new tax benefit for auto purchases made before the end of the year. But a full-scale ad campaign, say, built around tax breaks for people who buy fuel-efficient vehicles hasn't been mentioned.

While asking for cash upfront is considered an unthinkable insult to a longtime marketing partner, media companies are bracing for requests for extended payment terms from automakers. Media companies "have to make the decision as to whether or not they want to take that risk," said Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia co-CEO Wenda Millard. "We want to be supportive, but we have businesses to run, too."

Also less dependent on automakers are the Big Four agency holding companies, which hauled in some \$1.5 billion -- or 3.6% -- of worldwide revenue from the Detroit Three last year.

Interpublic Group of Cos. generated 5%, or about \$348 million, of its revenue last year from GM, its largest client. GM's share of Interpublic's revenue has fallen sharply from 8% in 2005 (when it lost GM media buying to Publicis Groupe) and 15% in 1979.

Interpublic up

GM at yearend 2008 represented 4%, or about \$194 million, of Interpublic accounts receivable and expenditures billable to clients (work in progress not yet billed), according to Interpublic's 10-K filing. Chairman-CEO Michael Roth told analysts that Interpublic's exposure to GM -- receivables plus work in progress -- stood at roughly \$150 million at the end of February; Ad Age believes the figure held stable at \$150 million at the end of March.

Investors are betting that what's bad for General Motors won't necessarily be that bad for Interpublic: Stock in the No. 3 agency firm, though still way down from historic levels, hit a 2009 high last week even amid talk of a potential GM bankruptcy. In a statement to Ad Age, Mr. Roth said: "GM is vital to the U.S. economy and an important IPG client. We remain committed to our partnership and are working closely to support them as they navigate through these challenging times."

At Publicis, GM represents "slightly over 3%" of worldwide revenue for 2008 and 2009, Chairman-CEO Maurice Levy said in an interview last week with Ad Age. That means Publicis last year generated slightly more than \$207 million from GM. Publicis assignments include media planning and buying, digital work, and Buick-Pontiac-GMC. Mr. Levy said GM is the ad firm's third-largest revenue client, behind No. 1 Procter & Gamble Co. (about 8%) and a client he declined to name.

Mr. Levy stressed: "We feel that we have an obligation to best serve a client who has been loyal to us for so many years. They are facing now some serious issues, and we believe that we owe them loyalty and we owe them to best serve them during this troubled period.

"Obviously at the same time we have to protect the legitimate interest of our group, our employees and our stockholders, and we are in conversations with GM [for] many months, and we have discussed all the values, options and possibilities. I believe that we owe them loyalty and commitment and maybe more in difficult times than in good times. ... We are not only here when days are good but also when days are bad."

Reducing fees

Mr. Levy said Publicis agreed to reduce its GM fees. "It started last fall," when Publicis cut its fees, "and we have done something more at the beginning of this year" to reduce fees, he said. He declined to go into specifics.

Mr. Levy also declined to reveal how much GM owes Publicis but said "the vast majority of receivables" are for media purchased by Publicis on behalf of GM. "There is what we call sequential liability" -- the concept that the client, not the media agency, in the end is responsible for media purchases -- "so we believe that our exposure is limited. ... The final client for the media is General Motors."

Ad Age asked GM how much liability it has for media buys and agency fees, including whether media owners, production companies

What all firms generated from their rijobal work for OM and Onlysion

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Oction fogunes and approximate. Sessetti Adilikote - Distartion sociyas chicompany filmps: 2006. - Engans and Adilication sesset and agencies have sequential liability in their contracts. A GM spokeswoman said, "We are not commenting on this level of detail at this time."

Among the major holding companies, Omnicom Group is least dependent on Detroit. DaimlerChrysler was Omnicom's largest chent in 2005, when it accounted for about 4%, or about \$419 million, of revenue. Chrysler remained a big revenue source last year, accounting for a bit less than 2.1%, or a little less than \$281 million, of revenue, according to Ad Age's analysis.

An Omnicom spokeswoman said last week: "We continue to provide great services and creative to our client. Chrysler has not been our largest client since 2005. In 2009, the account will represent less than 1% of revenue. We have taken steps to minimize exposure if bankruptcy were to occur."

I.P. Morgan's Alexia Quadrani estimates Omnicom 2009 revenue at \$11.9 hillion, down a bruising 10.9% amid the weak economy. That implies that the Chrysler account, at less than 1% of revenue, would bring in less than \$119 million — well below half its 2008 contribution.

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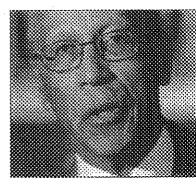
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BlackAthlete Sports Network-www.blackathlete.net

Bash Focus on History One of Motown's Favorite Sons By Tony McClean Apr 5, 2009



NEW HAVEN, Conn. — He was a standout guard in a era that was dominated by three fubure Hall of Famers. Despite that, Dave Bing carved his own special niche in the N&A, overcame his own obstacles, and would make that same trip to Springfield on his own ments.

Playing against the likes of Walt Frazier, Oscar Robertson, and Jerry West, Bing was a high-scoring guard who triumphed over injuries and went about his business for 12 seasons in the NBA.

He then quietly went on to off-court success in the business world as a self-made industrial magnate.

In nine seasons with the Detroit Pistons, followed by two with the Washington Sullets and one with the Soston Celtics, Sing amassed 18,327 points in 901 gamess (20.3 ppg). His efforts earned him a spot on the NBA 50th Anniversary All-Time Team.

The league's Rookle of the Year for 1966-67, he went on to make the All-NBA First Team twice and the Second Team once, and he played in seven NBA All-Star Games. In only his second season, 1967-68, he led the NBA in scoring with 27.1 points per game.

Born on November 24, 1943 in Washington, D.C., Bing grew up in the same neighborhood that produced another Hall of Famer, Elgin Baylor. At the age of five, Bing nearly suffered the loss of one of his eyes.

To improvise a game of "horsey," he found two sticks, halled them together, and was prancing down a street when he tripped; a nati plunged into his left eye. An operation seved his eye, but \$ing suffered fuzzy vision in that eye from then on.

However, it didn't stand in his way as he got older. Sing would become a standout at Spingern High School under the tutelege of legendary basketball coach William Roundfree. In Sing's senior year he was one of seven players on the varsity squad to average double figures in scoring.

Bing excelled in both baseball and basketball, but a scheduling conflict between tournaments in each sport forced him to make a reluctant choice. He opted for hoops and went on to be voted fournament MVP

Despite those accolades, there were some that thought Bing was still too small to play the game. That sentiment wasn't shared by college coaches, as his skills attracted collegiate interest from such basketball powerhouses as UCLA and Michigan.

However, bing chose Syracuse at the urging of the late Ernie Davis, a man who would later win the Heisman Trophy while becoming a consensus All-American running back for the Grangeman.

In three varsity seasons at Syracuse, Bing averaged 24.6 points, earning All-America honors as a senior. He was a roommate with current Orangeman head coach, Jun Boeheim who called Bing, "The best basketball player I've ever seen play. Ever."

The Detroit Pistons would make Bing the second overall pick in the 1966 NBA Draft, just behind the Knicks' selection of Michigan's Cazzie Russell. Bing's debut season was a splash.

He finished with a 1,601-point season, making him only the sixth rookie in NBA history to top 1,600 points. He averaged 20.0 points per game and was named 1966-67 NBA Rookie of the Year.

The next season, Bing led the league in scoring with 2,142 points and a 27.1 average. At the time, Bing was the first guard to set lead the scoring since Max Zaslofsky of the 1947-48 Chicago Stags of the old Basketball Association of America.

After playing for two seasons in the ABA, Bing would return to the Motor City where he played the bulk of his NBA career. Unlike the Bad Boys of the 90's and last year's NBA champs, the Pistons would have their problems in the postseason in the 70's.

In 1973-74, following the most successful regular season (52-30) since the franchise moved to Detroit in 1957, the Pistons finally made the playoffs only to be ousted in the first round by the Chicago Bulls.

The following season, despite sagging to a 40-42 regular-season record, the Pistons again made the playoffs but were ousted in the first round, this time by the Seattle SuperSonics.

Prior to the 1975-76 season, the Pistons traded Bing to the Washington Bullets with a first-round pick for Kevin Porter. The hometown reunion did not prove triumphant. Although Bing had one more brief moment of exultation, earning MVP honors at the 1976 NBA All-Star Game.

Bing's point production sank to a career-low 10.6 per game in 1976-77, and Washington released him at season's end. He later found a home for one more season with the Boston Celtics, serving as a third guard and appearing in 80 games with an average of 13.6 points per game.

He finally retired after the 1977-78 campaign.

Following his retirement, Bing returned to Detroit launched Bing Steel in the city in 1980. A decade later, the firm became the 10th-largest African-American-owned industrial company in the nation, according to *Black Enterprise* magazine's rankings.

He went on to acquire Superb Manufacturing, a metal-stamping company, as well as a small construction firm. He currently heads the Bing Group, a manufacturing company that produces steel and numerous car parts.

He has operations in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

In 1990, he was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and was named "One of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History" in 1996.

Over the years, Bing has been described as the perfect example of professionalism, class, dignity, and humanity. While so many ex-athletes have struggled once the cheering stops, Dave Bing has proven to be a Hall of Famer on and off the court.

In September of 2008, Bing announced that he was running for mayor of Detroit.

NOTE: NBA.com and Syracuse University have contributed to this story.

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WNEM.com

Showdown in Motown Captivates State

March Madness Turns To April Amezement

POSTEO: 3:22 pm EDT April 5, 2009 UPDATED, 5:14 pm EDT April 6, 2008

DETROIT -- Michigan State University's run for the tide has been more than a morete boost for Detroit.

After upsetting top seed University of Connecticut Sabarday, MSU takes on the heavily favored Tar Heels of North Carolina.

The Heets blew out the Spartane by 35 points earlier this season, Tom Izzo's team is looking for revenge - and a national title.

Mid-Michigan tolks are spanding cash to go green for the Spansans

lierry Reif was in his office working Monday but he will be among the thousands who will be commuting to the showdown in Motuwn at Ford Field to watch MSU taxe on North Carolina for the NCAA little.

Reif and his wife have two tickets to the game. They have taken the family van all over the country to watch the Spartage and have been to four of Coach Tont izzo's five Final four appearances.

Suf Monday right's road trip will take them only 95 miles south on Interstate-

Sparty fever is apreading throughout the state, as evident at Dick's Sporting Goods in Baginaw Township.

A green MBD display is the first thing one sees upon entry to the store.

TVS is your home for everything Final Four. Team coverage begins Monday at 5 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. catch our special championship edition of Sports Xtra' Road to the Pinal Four.

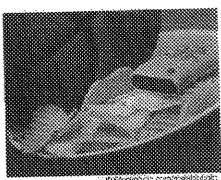
Pre-game starts at 9 p.m. with CBS coverage of the tip-off at 9.31 p.m.

Se sure to tune into a special national championship edition of TV5 News at 11 p.m. with live post-game reaction from coaches, players and fens.

Tickets can still be had if you're willing to pay. At last check, Stub-Hutchad some available, ranging in price from \$170 to \$2.860 per edmission

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UNC Rocks, Rolls into Motown Showdown

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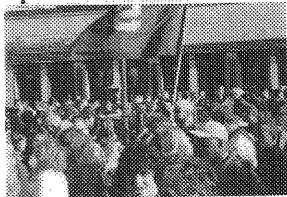
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At the post-genic interview following Saturday evention's Preal Pour win over Connections. Michigan State Boad Cosen Tom 1220 sold he nearely hoped his team's success was "e tay of sunshine" for the state of Michigan...

Detroit is East Lansing: The Significance of the Spartans in Motown



At the post-game interciew following Saturday evening's Final Four win over Connecticut, Michigan State Boad Coach Tom Iron and he merely hoped his team's success was "a tay of amabine" for the state of Michigan.

Many feel-good stories have been written recently about the Sperians benting the odds in a time where the state of Michigan is against all odds. Humerous accounts tell about the riperians' success bringing a warranted distraction to the comonin and orbiteric punches Monigan has taken to the gut.

"We'te not done yet, so hopefully we can continue to make there feel a little better and us feel a for better," izzo said.

But even before the game, anyone who was present near Bresh…er, Ford Field could see that the ray of sunshine over Datroit was closely green.

Por one full day at least, Detroit was Best Lansing, Mich., MEU's home town.

The fact that Michigan State still has the national championship to play surely matters. It matters to a lot of people. But for a few hours often their fix-y3 victory over the first-specied UCons Haskies, it horsestly didn't. The Michigan State Spantons and the state of Michigan had already won. They won the state own and instilled residents with the topes than this bruised land can eventome the odds...just like the Spantons did

The suphoria from the sea of green that emptied Ford Field following their semifinal game could only be seen in one other place on earth—first Lansing—and topped only by what the excitement end unity that the Sportsn teithful showed from early this Midwestern morning oil the way up to the off represented.

"B. Resis great! I am so hyperito be here," each MSEI senior Alojo Sepalvezia, who is from Grand Rapids and traveled outcos the state to support not only his school but Detroit as well. "Michigan's been hit hard. But right now ...that Joesn't matter, all the people showing support and uniting is what it's shoul."

The talignes that lined Adams Street and Comerica Park's right field proved that Michigan was alive and running—mailed in an area ordinarily where rival school University of Michigan has a stronghold. But not this day. And this is practicely what makes this story significant.

This isn't jet another story obour how MSU is staying Collectic while meraphodeally trending out daggers to Michigan's laid-off. Heek, we can say North Cambria is doing the same thing. The For Flee! State isn't doing too much better.

FEEDBACK

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5ve apr 1, 2009 (1, 16ve 59) School (1995) Stock Augilius (1994-1994

battered Motown

Jay Leno brings comic relief to

By David Balley

DETROIT (Renders) - In a nod to the gipamy economy, late-night consector day lights tractest it show on Tuesday to life the partared spines of Detroit residents forms steep unemployment and a felrening auto

The lust of MRC's "The Tonkfit Show with lay Leno," a celebrated car buff, presented a "contedy stroukes trian" to a pseixed

Specia Covarigo house at a suburban Debnik arena that is home to the Detroit Pistons Vilve professional basketball teem.

Process
The idea is just come on down, topeshilly longed your troubles for a write, con view other people are in the same bone as you are and maybe take some of the weight off, that's all." Lane told reporters beforehand.

Introduced by hometown hero kild finck, Leno isomher han an 80-minute appropriate abused at anyone and anything from U.S. presidents to air Sector foodback bravel and life in Los Angeles

> He riffed on cers, the price of gesoline and advisor thrends like laguar and Decos, but steered deer of ferroit, or the satiggling U.S. correctors, as a

> Leno dranked union members, whose perents and grandograms 'created She modelle class in America" and told a rewring authence "God bless

> "It's bad, but it's not that bad. Things will turn acound, they have before."

The arena was set up for about 15,000 sews, and all the lickers were distributed for shows on Tuesday and Wednesday. Parking and soft drinks were tree and other trains were discounted as sponsors distinced in to offset the costs.

Lend has done other shows of this land in Laz Vegas and Pennsylvania

AUTO CHY HIT HARD

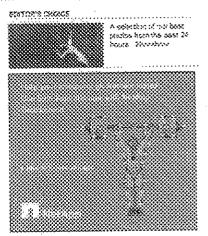
Descript was hard hit by the auto industry's impoles and commissing housing prices even before the latest economic downtum that has pushed U.S. unemployment to 15-year highs.

michigan's unemployment rate was 12 percent in February, compared with what was a 25-year high but percent U.S. rote. Races are much higher in some greas. In Detroit, the Jobless rate hit, on unadjusted 27.8 percent in

Land's skow was planned long before President Particle Unisers Injuded sumamond plans from Seneral Motors Corp and Chrysler et the end of

Obama's autos task force forces out GM Chief Executive Rick Wagemen, told SN to but deeper and move fieber, and ordered Chrysler, 80 percent controlled by Cerberus Capital Management, to consummers a marger with Stoly's First Spik within a month.

"I fishik you will see a new resurgence," Lene told reporters. "I ffishk you will see these companies parsing back, It's fait now. These companies these been in trouble before." Commune...



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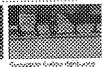
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Published on mydigitalfc.com (http://www.mydigitalfc.com)

Maruti steps up Dzire production By :Rupesh Janve Apr 07 2009

Car majors boosting production doesn't exactly sound as if Motown has hit the brakes. Even in tough market conditions, brands such as Swift Dzire and Fiat's Lines have waiting periods.

Maruti Suzuki, the leader in India's small car market, has stepped up production of its Swift Dzire, which has a waiting period of almost two months. This is in marked contrast to most passenger car manufacturers in India who have pruned production of automobiles in the past nine months. Swift Dzire is Maruti's largest selling mid-sized sedan.

A top Maruti official said the company had increased the production of passenger car models in the A3 segment from 5,500 units per month to 8,000 units per month in March 09. The A3 segment for Maruti comprises models such as SX4, Dzire, Balenc and Esteem

Another model that has waiting period in these difficult times is Fiat's Linea's top-end model Emotion. The A4 segment car has a waiting period between 15 and 30 days. The petrol and dieset variants of the Linea Emotion are priced at Rs 7.2 lakh and Rs 8.35 lakh, ex-showroom Mumbal, respectively. "There is around 30 days waiting period for the top-end model such as Linea Emotion, while in case of Active and Dynamic models it varies form one week to 15 days, depending on the city and dealers," said Rajeev Kapoor, managing director of Fiat India.

Kapoor said that the safety features including anti-locking braking system with electronic brake-force distribution and dual front airbags with pre-tensioners and load limiters on front seatbelts in the emotion variant have led to a huge demand for the top-end model Fiat manufactures around 2,000 units of petrol and diesel variants of Linea's per month, depending on the demand for the car, senior Fiat India officials said.

The Dzire falls in the mid-size car segment, but it shares the same platform with Maruti's No 1 hatchback model. Swift. 'Due to high demand and greater fuel efficiency of Dzire diesel, the company has decided to increase the production of the variant and reduce the number of SX4 units manufactured per month," a Maruti Suzuki spokesperson said. Thanks to the increased production volumes of the diesel variant of Dzire, the company has managed to bring down the waiting period for customers to two months from six months, earlier. The demand for the car is driven not just by its looks and attractive pricing but also by its operating costs as represented by its fuel efficiency, say analysts. The Automotive Research Association of India at Pune; Vehicles Research and Development Establishment at Ahmednagar and International Centre of Automotive Technology at Manesar in Haryana have all certified Dzire diesel as the most fuel-efficient.

diesel powered car in India with 21 km per litre mileage under ideal test conditions.

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Source URL: http://www.mydigitalfc.com/companies/maruti-steps-dzire-production-250

Motown beatdown

North Carolina's veterans dominate Michigan State to win national title

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 3:12 AM

BY EDDIE PELLS

Associated Press

DETROIT - There was a team of destiny, all right. It was the North Carolina Tar Heels, and the final chapter of their story was about as heartwarming as a demolition derby.

Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson and North Carolina won a national championship that was a season or more in the making, stomping out Michigan State's inspirational run last night with a 69-72 blowout that wasn't even that close.

Hansbrough scored 18 points, Wayne Ellington, the Final Four's most outstanding player, had 19, and Lawson led all scorers with 21 and also had a record eight steals.

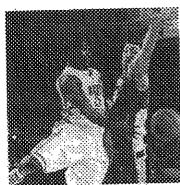
Now, those three and Danny Green can head to the NBA feeling good about their decision to return to school last year to bring home Carolina's fifth championship.

All those upperclassmen, save Hansbrough, came back in part because their draft prospects didn't look so good. They also didn't want their college careers to end with last year's embarrassing loss to Kansas in the Final Four. That was a dud of a game in which they trailed 40-12 in the first half and Billy Packer was telling CBS viewers that it was over

This time, North Carolina led 36-13 around the time that Dancing With The Stars was starting on another network. At least nobody knew how that contest was going to end.

Michigan State (31-7) never got momentum. From the start, it was clear that Carolina was not going to lose control of this one. There was no chance for the Spartans to serve up that definitive ray of sunshine and warm-and-fuzzy smile for a state that's been battered by the alling economy.

The Tar Heels (34-4) were up 55-34 at halftime, breaking a 42-year-old title-game record for the



MARK CORNELISON (LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

North Carolina guard Ty Lawson wraps a pass around Michigan State center Goran Suton in the second half.



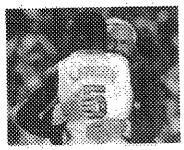
PAUL SANCYA LASSOCIATED PRESS Michigan State coach Tom Izzo watches as the Tar Heels roll past his team in the tide game in Detroit's Ford Field.

biggest lead at the break and the mark for most points at the half.

This collection of NBA talent was too much from wire to wire. Carolina won all six tournament games by double digits, something that hasn't happened since Duke did it in 2001.

Lots of basketball fans saw this coming, including America's No. 1 hoopster-in-chief. Yes, President Barack Obama picked the Tar Heels to win it all in his much-publicized bracket

Magic Johnson, Michigan State's Spartan-in-chief, joined Larry Bird at center court to present the game ball at the start, a tribute to the 30-year anniversary of their historic matchup and Michigan State's first title.



North Carolina coach Roy Williams and star guard Ty Lawson embrace after their victory. Williams' title is his second.

From there, it was pretty much all "Showtime" all the time — but not for Michigan State. Magic didn't even stick around for the end of the game. He was spotted walking up the tunnel with 3 1/2 minutes left.

Spartans coach Tom Izzo tried to call a timeout to stop the onslaught with 6:45 left in the first half. His team came out and turned the ball over. That was one of the Spartans' 14 turnevers in the first half, compared with only 12 baskets.

Goran Suton led the Spartans with 17 points, and Kalin Luces, the Big Ten player of the year, had 14, but most of those points were scored once the game was out of hand, which was very early.

Michigan State pulled to 13 a couple of times late in the game, the last with just under five minutes to go, and the pro-Spartans crowd of 72,922 tried to make noise.

But for most of the game, cavernous Ford Field had the atmosphere of a Detroit Lions NFL game, except for the few thousand Tar Heel fans whose Carolina Blue team put in a much better blue-collar effort than the team that was supposed to pride itself on that.

As for that 98-63 beatdown that Carolina put on Michigan State in the same building back on Dec. 37 It was no fluke.

This one was over soon after it began. Ellington had a double-pump scoop layup and a three-pointer, and Hansbrough spotted up and sank a 14-foot jumper to put Carolina ahead 17-7. The game never got closer.

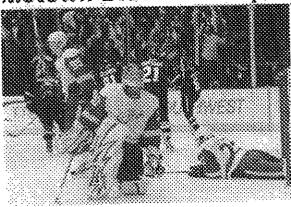
BuckeyeXtra is produced by Dispatch.com and The Columbus Dispatch.

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Oh, what a difference a year makes. Last season, Detroit Red Wings gouldendes Chris Osgood was on top of the world. Splitting time with one of the best neighbors in league history in Dominik ...

Motown Blues: The Epic Fall of Chris Osgood



Oh, what a difference a year makes.

Lost sesson, Detroit Red Wings goodbreder Chris Osgood was on top of the world. Splitting time with one of the best neumbodors in league history in Dorointi-Hasek, winning left and right until finally capturing the Stonley Cup...all was well to Morora.

This year, though, the angel has fallen, and if Prince Stanley smiles on Osgood again it will likely be toward the bench. Exspire playing for the powerhouse Red Wiege. Osgood has been dreedful this season ultimately resulting in his benching for noted journeyman backup Ty Conklin.

Osgood has been a major lerdown for the organization. His stats are dreadful at (all goal coaches, goalies, or related should skip to the next perograph) 3.15 GAA (gools allowed overage) and a save percentage of 88.5 percent. This is a shambles compared to last year's state of a 2.09 GAA and 91.4 percent.

Last senson, Osgood played in 43 sames, going 27-9-8. His winning this year has been the only consistency, as he has again played 43 sames for a 25-9-9 record. However, last year, his wins came as a result of good play. This year, his wins are simply a result of playing for the Red Wings.

There is talk to Hockeytowe of possibly making Cluris Osgood the statter for the playoffs because of the experience. White experience in the playoffs is important, how do you sit a hor goaltender like Conklin? For that motter, how can you tell Conklin? "Franks for all the hard work filling in for this goy willie he sacked, but as for playing in the Stanley Cup Finals, well, forget that? You're back on the heach." Is that fair to do to consome?

Honostly, I don't knew who the starter should be. Experience is important and I want to see Osgoni regain his form, despite being a Sabres Ian. However, can you maily just throw him in there, disregard Conklin like that, and hope that Osgond is suddenly revitalized?

For that coatter, what do they do next year? Do they keep Osgooxi and hope he was has having an off year, or sign someone tow?

For these of you wonderlog why I did not include Conklin as to option for next session, he has a one-year deal and seems hell-bent on playing in every outdoor game there is, as he has played to said won all of the NHLI's outdoor games, and will probably head wherever the next Winter Classic is scheduled to be.

REFORMER

Sports

Mowed down in Motown

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

By PAULA PASCHE JRC News Service

DETROIT — Michigan State killed its chances of winning a national championship by turning the ball the over — over and over again.

All season Spartans coach Tom Izzo has preached to his squad to limit the turnovers, play clean basketball.

Credit North Carolina for a portion of Michigan State's 21 turnovers in the 89-72 loss to the Tar Heels in Monday night's NCAA national championship game at Ford Field before 60,000 or so disappointed Spartans' fans.

But clearly the Spartans played sloppy basketball, throwing bad in-bounds passes that were intercepted, traveling, stepping out of bounds and other assorted miscues.

It wasn't what fans had come to expect from the Big Ten regular season champions.

At the half, with the Spartans down, 55-34, Michigan State had already accumulated 14 turnovers which is three more than they had in the entire game on Saturday night, a semifinal win over Connecticut.

The Tar Heels took advantage and scored 17 first-half points off those 14 turnovers.

Overall North Carolina scored 25 points off Michigan State's 21 turnovers.

The Spartans could not put the skids on the turnovers after the first half.

They then had four more in the first five minutes of the second half.

The Tar Heels turned the ball over seven times, just four times in the first half.

The Spartans were well aware that they had to play a near-perfect game to have a chance to beat the Tar Heels, Izzo said as much on Sunday.

This was the same team that beat an injury-depleted Michigan State by 35 points on Dec. 3 at Ford Field.

In that game the Spartans had a season-high 22 turnovers. They tied that mark in a 22-point loss at Purdue on Feb. 17. It's not a coincidence those were two of Michigan State's worst losses in their 31-7 season.

Throughout the season the Spartans averaged 13.9 turnovers per game, while the Tar Heels averaged 12.6.

URL: http://www.themorningsun.com/articles/2009/04/07/sports/srv0000005065217.prt

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Tacoma, WA - Tuesday, April 7, 2009

< Back to Regular Story Page

Spartans give Motown green-and-white buzz

News Tribune news services

Last updated: April 5th, 2009 12:25 AM (PDT)

DETROIT – The streets of the Motor City were buzzing on a sunsplashed day as thousands of Michigan State fans soaked up the Final Four experience.

"Go green! Go white!" was heard early and often, especially when the student sections for each of the four schools were corralled on a sidewalk between Ford Field and Comerica Park.

North Carolina student Kevin Coletta chuckled at the scene.

"It's pretty funny," the 22-year-old native of Cary, N.C., said. "They're very enthusiastic, and they should be. I just feel bad for them because if they win, they'll have to play the Tar Heels, and we already beat them by 35 here."

Michigan State junior Drew Lundgren was in the throng of Izzone student-section members waiting four hours before tipoff to get in the venue.

"I'm one of the lucky 400 who was able to get online Monday to get a ticket," said the 21-year-old native of West Bloomfield, Mich., sporting green foam hat.

Another 79 were made available for Michigan State students, and a lottery was held to distribute those tickets.

When two fans sporting Michigan football jerseys walked by, they were booed by the rival Spartans.

"I just hope you win so North Carolina can beat you even worse this time!" Dave Danielson, a 27-year-old Michigan fan from Algonac, Mich., shouted back at the taunts.

The rooftop deck at Cheli's Chili Bar & Restaurant was packed like a house party with Michigan State donors.

The crowd in the tent outside overflowed so much former Spartan basketball players were left on the outside looking in along with hundreds of people in a line that stretched around the block.

Detroit's Magic touch

Magic Johnson's jaw dropped and his head swiveled when he saw how Ford Field was set up for basketball. No, you're not in Utah anymore.

"Wow," he said.

When Johnson led Michigan State to the 1979 title over Larry Bird and Indiana State, the game was played in Salt Lake City.

"That," he said, "was nothing like this."

Johnson walked around the court, looking for his seats, with his father and other members of his family.

He stopped to sign autographs and take pictures with fans, including with Connecticut students, who put their rooting interests on hold to capture the moment with the Hall of Famer and former Los Angeles Lakers star.

The native of Lansing, Mich., said he's thrilled his sagging home state got an emotional lift from the Spartans' Final Four appearance. "Oh baby, you know we need this," he said.

Massimino's legacy

Rollie Massimino wants some national championship company.

The coach who led the Villanova Wildcats to their only national title in 1985 was in Detroit rooting on his former program and his protege, coach Jay Wright. Massimino said he didn't offer Wright any advice when they spoke hours before the Wildcats played North Carolina in the Final Four on Saturday night.

"He asked, 'What do you think today should be?' I said, 'It's up to you,' " Massimino said. " 'Just have some fun. You're the man. You're going to make it happen.' "

Massimino shared the CBS stage with former Georgetown coach John Thompson 24 years after they went head-to-head in the title game. The eighth-seeded Wildcats stunned the Hoyas, 66-64, in one of the great-upsets in sports history. Villanova was making its first trip back to the Final Four since that historic night.

A Michigan welcome

The Michigan State pep band chanted "Cheater! Cheater!" when UConn coach Jim Calhoun walked onto the court 30 minutes before tipoff.

The chant was a reference to reports alleging that the Huskies violated NCAA recruiting rules.

PLAYING CLOSE TO HOME

Men's basketball teams that played in the Final Four closest to their campus in the past 25 years:

TeamFinal FourYearResultMiles

Kansas JayhawksKansas City, Mo.1988Won title42

Michigan State SpartansDetroit2009TBD Monday91

Duke Blue DevilsCharlotte, N.C. 1994Lost title game120

Originally published: April 5th, 2009 12:25 AM (PDT)



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Thousands Flocked to Bresilin Center to Watch Big Game

Posted: April 7, 2009 05:52 AM PDT



Thousands of Spartan fans who couldn't make it to Detroit watched the big game at the Bresiin Center. The university opened the gym up to the public and showed the game on the big screen. The concession stands were even up and running for the event and

fans say the experience was the perfect alternative to watching the game in Motown.

Fan: "Couldn't get down to Detroit, but we're here and it's just electric."

Laneise Collier, Spartan fan: "It's amazing, there are so many people here, the atmosphere is live, everyone is veiling and screaming, it doesn't matter if they're behind, everyone is still pumped up."

Jamal Thomas, Spartan fan: "It's just great being here, where they're from and seeing everyone here just believe in the team, it's just great."



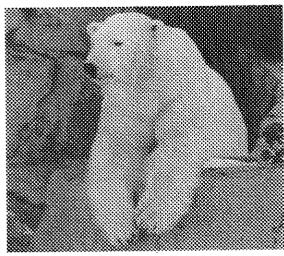
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Pimp My Polar Bear

By ZACH CHRISTMAN

Updated 7:12 PM CDT, Wed, Apr 8, 2009

Related Topics: Bears | Mammals | Nature and the Environment | Wildlife



Courtesy: Lincoln Park Zoo

Anybody got a digarette?

Computer dating took a step into a bold, if chilly, new world this week, as Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo prepared to find one of its male polar beam a book-up.

Polar Bear Love Connection

Wateh Video

One of the Lincoln Park Zoo's polar bears is off to Detroit to (hopefully) make a love connection. Zoo Babies View Slideshow See all the newest arrivals at zoos around the world. Baby lions, tigers and bears step into the spotlight. Lee, the 9-year-old bachelor in question, was matched on a computer profile to two sows in Detroit (cool down, Michiganites -- that's the term for a female bear). Now he's off to Motown for a little love. Cue Barry White. Lee will be able to choose between a mother and her daughter at the <u>Detroit Zoo</u>, where he was shipped Tuesday. Zoologists use genetic testing to find mates for polar bears, but the animals can be picky about their partners. There are no guarantees Lee will make the most of this, his first opportunity. He can't mate at Lincoln Park Zoo because the only female polar bear there is his sister. Find this article at: http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Polar-Bear-Lincon-Park-Zoo-Loan-Mate-Detroit.html Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article. © NBC Universal, Inc. All Rights Reserved.





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Motown Showdown this weeked

Proposed by Stophish Red April 09, 2008 14 28PM The in-state travel season debuts Pridos with the Musterips Motown Shouldown, of Oskiand University end OCO's Highland Lesse textipue

the streams interesting to see how rumored toeters actually come logistical. If everyone plays for the feest most expend them to, then the factories to the 17 under division are REACH. Yearn Debox, Dearon Fire. Common Book and the trust Mesteres

The Muslange won the 17-under division less year, in 135, they have existly the state's strongest frontocut with 6-9 Grand Ledge tunor Job Horbrid, 6-9 Estim Regular junior Alex Gauna, 6-7 Oktober Johns Matt Kandanteck) and 6-9 Landing Raction (suph Extination History

Ser grands? Try REACH's projected roster with two first-learn advantage. S-8 Arthur His junco **Scuri**ce Jones was the Class A payer of the year, while future fipation Ketti: Appling still has to be iteating after his record ecolog game in the Class A

Team Debrut mudit have faces high-respondingsects in 6-1 Country Coy junice May McCelbran, 6-6 Moura Piscesori junice Trey Zeigter and 5-10 tutice Electricator junior Gorsy Petros.

Commun Bond didn't have its full contingent when it debuted task week in Chis., east cosn trenders has defeated to the Family birty aren't they district?. But there's still the core of what his the past their sessions has seen the state best team in the age stress, 6-3 Forward button the past their Sessions. 6-1 Connect American button Glann Dosey, S-7 Selloville jurgor Mr. Condo and 7-0 Midletel jurgor Brandon Crame.

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COMMENTS (8)

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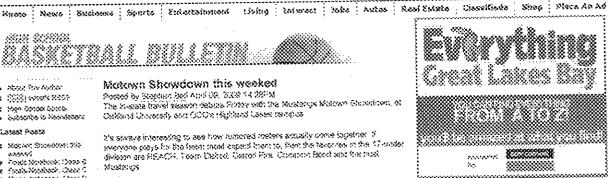
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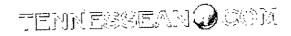
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April 9, 2009

Predators don't sweat Detroit trip

Nashville has fared well there this year

By John Glennon THE TENNESSEAN

In many past seasons, a must-win game for the Predators in Detroit's Joe Louis Arena would have been akin to a death sentence.

After all, they won just six times in their first 30 regular-season trips to Motown and went 0-for-6 in the playoffs there.

But as the Predators look to bolster their postseason hopes tonight in Detroit, they have more reason, to feel better about themselves in comparison to the Red Wings.

Nashville is one of just four Western Conference teams — along with Colorado, Columbus and Dallas — with a winning record against the Red Wings this season. Nashville has won three of the five meetings.

In addition, the Predators have beaten the Red Wings twice in a row, drubbing Detroit 8-0 in Nashville and rallying past the Red Wings 4-3 at Joe Louis on March 29.

"It's probably just because we're very familiar with them," Predators Coach Barry Trotz said. "Therefore the awe of playing the Red Wings is not there like it used to be.

"For a number of years, they were so skilled, we just gave them too much respect and we watched them instead of competing against them. But they're just too skilled to watch. You've got to compete very hard against them."

The Predators should have no problem bringing a competitive edge to the game, as Nashville's postseason aspirations almost certainly depend on beating Detroit and then beating Minnesota on Friday.

Nashville's "tragic number" is three — any combination of points gained by St. Louis or squandered by Nashville would eliminate the Predators from the playoffs.

"We know we're going to need some help, but we have to make sure we do our part — and that's winning the next two," Predators forward J.P. Dumont said. "We've been playing some good hockey against Detroit."

Dumont believes Nashville's success against Detroit might be an extension from last season's playoffs, when the eighth-seeded Predators extended the Red Wings to six games in a competitive first-round series.

"We gave them a hard time and we've built on that," Dumont said. "The style of game we play, we never quit. We just have to make sure we don't make any turnovers."

Red Wings radio broadcaster Ken Kal sees at least one other reason Nashville has played well

against Detroit this season. Here's a hint: He stands 6-foot-5 and plays goaltender.

"When I think of the Predators, I think of the great goaltenders they've had over the years — Tomas Vokoun and Chris Mason did well. But this Pekka Rinne, he's been unbelievable," Kal said of Rinne, who's 2-1 against Detroit with a 2.34 goals against average and .940 save percentage.

"It seems like he always plays well against the Red Wings. Anytime you get a goaltender who's playing well, playing hot and makes big saves at critical times, that's going to give your team a lift."

Motown String Music a General Pieters blog

Morning Shootaround: Welcome, Redundancy, and Beating the Nets

🗱 by SPackey on Apr 16, 2009 12:00 PM CDT in News

This will hopefully be a morning regular (at least on game days), which will allow you to read up on other Detroit Pistons stories. It's like a team's morning shootaround in that it's somewhat informal, brief, and gets you prepped for the game.

Matt Watson from Detroit Bad Soys and MSA Fan House was gracious enough to shoot me an email and serve up an alley-eop on his site welcoming me to the Detroit Pistons blog family. He calls his should outs alley-eops, which is much cooler, but for purposes of the morning shootaround I'll refer to shouldouts within this post as a link to the "tip drift."

Another great Pistons site that I need to acknowledge is one that I'm sure everyone is already aware of. Natalie Sitto puts a lot of hard work into Need\$96eed for all the 'Stones fans. It's really impressive what she does with images and creating her own video clips. The site is a part of my regular web surfing routine and should be a part of yours too, if it's not already.

Normally the Masters wouldn't be relevant except for our Coach Michael Curry grew up in Augusta. GA and worked the fournament for three years in high school. The Free Press did a quick interview with him about it. Although it's not quite the same as quitting a job at Augusta the year before Jack Nicklaus wins the Masters, but I used to caddy at Oakland Hills near my home in Michigan and I quit a few years before the Byder Cup. I definitely kicked myself for that when it came time for scoring tickets

Speaking of Coach Curry, a lot of people want his head on a manile for the way things have gone this season. I think those people need to take a deep breath and give him a fair chance. It's his first year as a head coach and he's hardly had the chance to coach the same group of guys on a nightly basis due to injuries and some of his own trials as a result of a trade he probably dixin't expect to happen two games into his first season. I don't normally put much stock into the Official Pistons blogs since they are undoubtedly biased, but George Staha discusses Coach Curry in a way I definitely agree with.

As I have mentioned in my intro post and other places of this site, the name Motown String Music incorporates the George Bisha-ism. "sweet, sweet string music." I'm not the only blog that has a Blaha-ism as part of the title, though. Count that Saby and a Four is another Blah-ism and also another great Pistons blog. I look forward to working with them and hearing their intelligent fan feedback on this site as well.

it's not just the Pistons fans who question the moves Michael Curry has made this season. Before it was announced that Iverson would be out for the season. Rick Kamia of NBA.com expressed his displeasure with the Idea that Georgia Tech graduate Will Bynum would cut into Iverson's minutes off the bench. I don't think Will Bynum would appreciate the Snoop/Jonas Brothers analogy.

This is the last mention of Allen iverson for awhite, I promise. Sticking with the music theme, I have to share with you a faux rap that iverson probably would have recorded had he actually been telling the truth about his willingness to come off the bench and do whatever it takes to help the learn win. Maybe he should make a new one, "Whatever You Dislike."

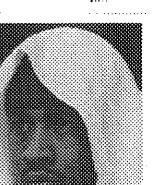
With the season winding down, awards discussion is picking up. Nick and Ron revealed their early submissions. It's great to see Stuckey cracking the All-Sophomore team. I think the MVP discussion will be a heated one, as Dwayne and Lebron are both more than deserving of it. Call me crazy, but i'd be okay with seeing co-MVP's this season.

Lastly, the Pistons will take on the New Jersey Nets tonight at 8:00 PM EST. Nets guard, Devin Harris is having a career year and an even better season against us (25 ppg and 7 apg). A. Sherred Stakety of MiLive says the key to tonight's game is stopping him. Despite facing teams with sure stars, the Pistons tend to allow the lesser names to beat them. If anyone is going to beat us, I'd rather it be the stars.

Make sure you join the game thread tonight as it is my very first one here at MSM. I'm tooking forward to it.



The Truth About The Answer?



by Mark More photos with Chindan - AP
Alten (version is missing the rest of the season because of a lingering sore back. Thursday, Jason Whitlock of FOX Sports News Isid a whole new world of hard on AJ (AP Photo/Mark)

Duncan, File)

First of all, remind me to never cross Jason Whitlock. I don't think tive ever seen such a thoroughly written tongue-lashing. Whitlock essentially opened a case of whoop ass, and a gallon of rubbing alcohol for good measure, and dumped it all over Alien iverson's openly wounded world. Just a guess, but I don't think A.I. will be granting any interviews to FOX Sports after Whitlock's quotes Thursday.

He reminds us of our own shortcomings and failures. In the pantheon of spoiled, media-cuddled, overhyped professional basketball players, Allen Iverson reigns subteme

- ...Iverson said he'd rather retire than come off the bench, help the Pistona win and represent Detroit.
- ... Iverson's narcissistic play and demeanor prevented him from developing a Tonto, a Pippen, a McHale, a Worthy, a Dumars, Iverson has never been accused accurately of making the players around him better.
- ...Iverson, a free agent this offseason, will return to the league next year. I'd imagine he'll try to cherrypick a title by attempting to join LeBron James. It won't be a replay of Kevin Garnett teaming with Paul Pierce

It'll be Tranic II with Allen Iceberg.

I've heard my fair share of Iverson bashing, but this article's passionate disgust for the guy referred to as "the Answer" probably trumps all.

I think the best part of the article is when Whitlock analogizes Iverson with the iceberg that ultimately took Jack's life in that 1997 epic flick that had so many DiCaprio lusting girls (and maybe me) crying as Rose let go, even though she said she wouldn't. That part—Whitlock's analogy—was funny to me, but I don't think it's entirely true regarding what Iverson could bring to a team next season. Take the Pistons for example, I don't think this team is clinging for their playoff lives, say on a piece of wood in the ocean, solely because of Allen Iverson. (Last *Titanic* reference, I promise).

We tend to get so caught up in imagining Iverson as a pinata at our birthday parties that we forget about Chauncey Billups, the leader that helped get us to six consecutive Eastern Conference Finals. I think some fans underestimate how much he truly meant to this team. All I know for sure is, the same people who wanted Billups gone for the Miami/Beasley draft pick or Carmello this past summer, and were raving after the Iverson deal this early winter, were crying for a mulligan just a couple weeks after the trade was made.

I'm not defending Iverson, though. I don't think the role he wanted makes us any better, but I also don't fully believe he's what made us worse. We've shown in the past few weeks, that we're just as capable of losing without him as we were with him. The Billups departure did this Pistons team more harm than Iverson's arrival. I just think Iverson served as a distraction to that realization.

So is Whitlock's piece the whole truth about Iverson? Probably not. And that's not just because he claims Iverson is the reason we're clinging for our playoff lives right now. He completely puts down one of the NBA's all-time greatest scorers, and in my mind that's not all mashed potatoes and gravy to me.

Iverson is without a doubt one of the better scorers in NBA history. He's third in NBA history in points per game, behind only Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain, respectively. Whitlock can say all he wants about how many shots he takes in a game, which Whitlock indicated is 22. Dwayne Wade, Lebron James, and Kobe are atops the NBA in scoring this season and guess how many shots they are averaging per game? A hair (off my balding head) below 22. And honestly, if I had Iverson's talent and my teammates were about as talented as the cast in *Hang Time* I would probably shoot what seems to be every time down the floor, too (By the way, I'm referring to his teammates in Philadelphia--e.g., Aaron McKie, Eric Snow, Tyrone Hill and 34-year-old Dikembe Mutombo--where he spent the majority of his career).

Unfortunately, Iverson's style of play didn't translate well to Detroit. For nearly the last decade, the Pistons have thrived off a successful system built around ball movement and defense, a couple aspects of the game Iverson doesn't brag to his grandmother about.

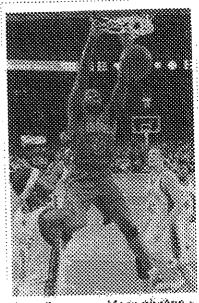
That being said, yes, the way A.I. handled his role in Detroit was a fissure in all our butts, but I also don't think it necessarily warranted everything Whitlock said, considering the success Iverson has had throughout his career. I can't tell if he really hates Iverson or not. I mean he's had Iverson's entire career and six days after the 'out for season' announcement to gather his cool.

Maybe he's feverishly pissed off that Iverson didn't stick to his words, "I'll do whatever it takes to win a championship." Surely had A.I. shut his mouth and at least tried to do that, it could have gone down as an ultimate tasters choice moment in NBA history: "Third leading scorer in NBA history sacrifices nearly 15 points off his average to help the Pistons win a championship." I'm guilty of imagining those headlines when I heard his quotes. Perhaps Jason Whitlock had written the entire story and had to scrap it when Iverson reneged his desire to help the team. Who knows?

Instead, it just seems that Iverson is going to be remembered as that selfish scorer who cared more about his state than helping a proven team get over that Eastern Conference Finals hump. For that, Whitlock was right on.

Pistons Flip the 'Swagger' Switch

by SPackey on Apr 8, 2009 11:04 PM COT in Recept



by Julie Jacobson - AP

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The other day, Rasheed Wallace said the Pistons' "swagger will come with the playoffs," Well, it looked like it came Wednesday night at the Garden.

With just five games remaining before the playoffs begin, 'Sheed and the rest of the Pistons seemed to be bouncing around with a little extra pep in their step. According to the MiLive write up, the pre-game routine of layup drills and jump shots turned into an NBA Jam slam dunk contest. Apparently 'Sheed's pre-game dance incorporated a little more Michael Jackson-ness than usual, too.

They carried that awagger into the game, by starting on a 10-0 run and never looking back—in the 113-86 victory. The Knicks were never within eight points, save the first couple minutes.

All five Piston starters scored in double figures, in addition to ten from reserve, Watter Herrmann Richard "Rip" Hamilton paced the Pistons' scorers with 22 points. Antonio McDyess (13 points & 16 rebounds) and Wallace each had double-doubles. It was McDyess' team-leading 15th double-double. The Pistons shot 54% from the field and held the Knicks to just 36% shooting.

With the win, the Pistons increased the distance between them and the Charlotte Sobcats for the No. 8 spot to three games ('Stones are actually tied with the Chicago Balls for the No. 7 spot, but the Bulls hold the tiebreaker for now).

This win, albeit against a team playing for a better draft pick rather than the playoffs, was big for the Pistons and fans alike. A lot of the media/fans have been down on the team, and deservedly so, but a strong finish could create a strong (not false) sense of hope heading into the playoffs.

It started yesterday for the Pistons, with 'Sheed's comments:

We're still trying to win that championship, even though most people don't think that we can. But we still believe that we can.

...And I think our swagger will come with the playoffs. We have a lot of veterans on here who we've all went deep into the playoffs for the last so-and-so years. So I think we'll definitely get our swagger back once we get that rolling and get into the playoffs; that whole playoff atmosphere, playoff mystique then — we're good.

These comments may have raised some eyebrows as they could have come off to some as more him excusing the Pistons for the way they've played this season, rather than as hope or inspiration geared toward their playoff run. The Free Press' Jamie Samuelsen viewed the quotes in the former light:

So Rasheed is basically saying, "Yeah, we really didn't try too much during those first 82 games. But in the last four, we're going to give it our all." Reassuring words — especially in this economy.

I guess if you're someone who links everything back to our nation's less than desirable economy, no matter how irrelevant it may be, I can see how you might view 'Sheed's comments with a little cynicism.

That's not the main point, though. The gist of Mr. Samuelsen's article is that the Pistons need more action and less talk, as the title reveals.

It's just words. And the Pistons have kind of become that this year — a lot of talk. Allen Iverson told us that he'd do anything to help the team win. That lasted about two games. Michael Curry told us that he was going to use the bench as a tool to motivate players.

... And now words from Rasheed, who doesn't have the game or the health left to back them up.

While I definitely agree that what Iverson said in the past could create some skepticism now, I (and I guess I could be alone on this) completely disagree with the crux of the piece:

So I'll bet Pistons' fans read Rasheed's comments without relief, surprise or alarm. I bet they just read them and then went on to the next article. They're just words. Words no right-minded Pistons fan expects to come to fruition.

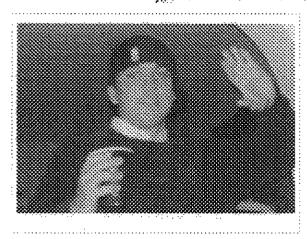
Personally, 'Sheed's comments pumped me up like an old pair of Reebok's. Throughout this season, I don't recall any of the Pistons being aggressively confident. All year, the Pistons have essentially said, "we should be better," "we need to be better," or "we could be better." Well, 'Sheed broke that pattern and declared that the Pistons can and will.

"For the last few (years), everyone said, "Oh, oh, Pistons, Pistons, Pistons," Wallace said in a mock plaintive tone. "But even then, honestly, for the last few they counted us out. They never said we won't be there and this and that, but we've always been there. So now we definitely have to prove to it, that we will be there."

That quote has to feel good to, at the very least, those fans who always see the glass half full. Now, I agree that you have to back up what you say, as Mr. Samuelsen's article suggests. But I leved what 'Sheed said yesterday, as he got the blood flowing a little bit. Then he end the Pistons backed that up tonight Hopefully they keep it going and roll into the playoffs, as they could be a very dangerous No. 7 or No. 8 seed.

Humble Introduction

by Shackey on Apr 5, 2009 8:54 PM CDT in News



I don't want to make this long-drawn-out like same type of Academy Awards 'thank you' speech (although I can't promise there won't be tears), but I do want to take some time to welcome everyone to Motown String Music and introduce myself.

Speaking of thank yous, I would like to thank SS Nation for giving me the opportunity to start the Detroit Pistons blog. As having been one of the better teams in the NEA for the past decade, I was shocked to see the Pistons not represented here. I am honored to be the one who starts it

This site will bring you all the latest information about the Detroit Pistons with game threads, recaps and analysis. I will also try to bring you any other news around the league that might be relevant to the Pistons. Feel free to join the community and post any of your comments, FanPosts, or FanShots. I do ask that you try to keep the content relatively clean and cuss-free.

As for my introduction, I'm Brian Packey and I'm a die hard Detroit sports fan. (And yes, that might sound like I'm in an AA-like meeting for Detroit sports-pholics). I grew up just outside the city of Detroit and have been following their teams ever since I can remember.

I played college baseball, but I really enjoy playing all sports especially basketball. When I was about 10-

years old, I would play basketball in my basement (by myself) and announce the games as if I was George Blaha. Sounds really pathetic, nerdy, weird, and cute all rolled into one, but I think that probably shows how much I truly love the Pistons. Therefore, I'm really looking forward to running this site and interacting with everyone who decides to become a part of this community.

To end this I'd like to leave you with a George Blaha quote since the title of this blog is a play off the Blaha-ism 'sweet, sweet string music':

All I ever really wanted to do was broadcast games and bring some joy to hard-working people in a working man's town.

What better place than Detroit?

That pretty much sums up what I want to do here with this blog.

OLDER STORIES

EXPLORE FULL ARCHIVE

Anderson's success a product of hard work

COMMENTARY

By Bryan Burwell Published: April 12, 2009 Comments ■ 0

<u>DETROIT</u> — From the <u>Palace of Auburn Hills</u> to the middle of Ford <u>Field</u>, from the streets of Motown and across the river into the hotel lobby in <u>Windsor</u>, <u>Ontario</u>, everywhere <u>Mike Anderson</u> roamed last week, he was the toast of the town. This is what happens when you are one of those guys at the Final Four, and Anderson is definitely one of those guys.

Fresh off a well-publicized, successful run through March Madness, Anderson parlayed that good fortune on the court into a personal fortune off the floor. Less than 48 hours after signing his new, seven-year, \$10.85 million deal to remain at Missouri, Anderson arrived in the Motor City last Thursday and immediately was embraced by his coaching peers for a job well done.

"Oh my gosh, they are so proud of him," Anderson's wife, Marcheita, said Friday evening as she sat in Ford Field watching her husband coach in a college all-star game. "All these coaches, the old ones and his peers, they keep coming up to us and congratulating us, and it wasn't just about the new contract. It was because of the long run in the tournament, too. They all seem to feel like they all had a hand in it."

Since the Tigers' surprising season came to an end two weeks ago against <u>Connecticut</u> in the <u>NCAA</u> West Regional final, the Andersons have spent some long days and nervous nights caught in the midst of a whirlwind of speculation over Mike's coaching future.

"It was a whirlwind," he said. "But it was a good whirlwind."

Georgia was after him. Memphis was after him. Both schools were more than willing to make him rich beyond his imagination. But as Anderson sat courtside at Ford Field, he said he never once thought that he would end up leaving Missouri. Even more important, he never wanted to turn it into an auction where he sold his services to the highest bidder.

"I don't think that way," he said. "I never have. I'm a day-to-day guy. But at the same time, this is a business. So when you have people coming in and looking at your program and looking at you and wanting to get you to come (to their program), I look at that as a compliment. It looks like a report card of what's taking place at Missouri. But I learned awhile ago that it never hurts to listen, even though I'm not going to be one of those guys who's constantly shopping himself."

"I'm happy where I am," he said. "I want to finish what I started. That's how I've always been, and there is something very special that we want to finish at Missouri. But I just told (MU director of athletics <u>Mike Alden</u>), 'Take care of me. Be fair."'

Part of "taking care" of Anderson was not all about his salary. The guaranteed money that he will receive from Missouri is about a half-million dollars a year less in guaranteed money than what Georgia was offering. According to reports out of Memphis, they were planning on going even higher to lure Anderson to replace John Calipari. What Anderson was seeking were assurances that the school would treat the basketball program like all the other nationally established programs in the country in terms of things like travel, recruiting budgets and assistant coaches' salaries.

"Look at what has taken place here," Anderson said. "We are going to meet those challenges (on the court). But we want to be on the same level with all those other programs if we're going to be expected to compete against them."

On Friday evening, Anderson was on the bench at the Final Four. It was not exactly how he had imagined his trip to Ford Field would be. He was an assistant coach for his old mentor, the legendary Nolan Richardson, in the Hershey's College All-Star Game. It was the first time the 68-year-old Richardson had been on a bench coaching since he was fired from the <u>University</u> of Arkansas six years ago.

So of course it didn't take long before Richardson was back to his old, excitable coaching ways. He was fussing at the refs and ordering his vintage 40 Minutes of Hell full-court press in the middle of an all-star game.

At one point during the second half, Anderson was so entertained by Richardson's histrionics that he got up from the bench, walked back one row and started laughing. "Coach is fired up," Anderson said, shaking his head as his mentor scrambled up and down the bench frantically pointing to kids whose names he barely knew.

"I feel like I'm back at Arkansas," Anderson joked. "(Thursday) at practice, I thought I was going to be able to just sit on the sidelines and take it easy. But as soon as we walked in, Nolan barks at me, 'MIKE! MIKE! TAKE THE GUARDS!!!!'"

And of course Anderson complied, transforming from one of those guys to a subordinate life he gave up years ago. It was the perfect flashback for a man who has never forgotten who he was and how hard he has worked to arrive near the pinnacle of his profession. The journey began 24 years ago when he arrived in <u>Fayetteville</u>, Ark., as an unpaid graduate assistant to Richardson. He was married with two young kids, and he and Marcheita somehow found a way to exist on the \$500 a month he earned doing any odd job that came his way.

"I did it all," Anderson recalled. "I sold office supplies. I did substitute teaching. You

name it, I did it. Any way to make a buck. I worked basketball camps. We stayed in a little bitty ol' apartment, and I still don't know how we did it."

They were so poor back then that Anderson's mother-in-law would write letters to her daughter with a \$20 bill taped to it. "It said, 'Buy some hamburgers with this,"'

Marcheita remembered.

But Mike Anderson never complained about his circumstances. He just worked harder and found more odd jobs. "I'm one of those guys who I'm always going to survive doing something," he said. "If I have to go be one of those guys sweeping the streets to survive, that's what I'm going to do. That goes back to my childhood. We didn't have a whole lot. But what we had we shared, and there was always a lot of love."

And now he is a millionaire coach who wears custom-tailored suits and dress shirts, and he and his family live comfortably in a 6,500-square-foot home in <u>Columbia</u>, and they have no plans on moving. "When you start out being a volunteer graduate assistant, then move up to part-time assistant, then assistant and keep on moving up the ladder, it makes you appreciate making a living doing what you love," Anderson said.

So this is one of those great American success stories that everyone loves to read. From rags to riches, though not exactly overnight. When someone asked Anderson if he was surprised how well his success story has turned out, the confident side of this humble man popped up.

"No, not really," he said with a thin grin. "I want to do everything fast. When I came to Missouri three years ago, I thought I should have been tapping in on a national championship fast. For it to happen in our third year is really special, but if you know me, you know that I like to win real bad, and right now we haven't won the way I want to win.

"I knew I would get here. I said that from Day One. What did I say in my first press conference? I was talking about a national championship. So I think we're on the right road to that goal, and the by-product of that journey is winning conference championships, conference tournaments, going to Sweet 16's and the Elite Eight, then finally going to the Final Four and winning a national championship."

Anderson paused for a moment, maybe for a little effect, and then he grinned a little more.

"So to answer your question, yes this is exactly what I dreamed," Anderson said. "I will continue to be humble. But we still want to talk about going to a national championship. And we will get there."



April 12, 2009

Breaking down Pistons' playoff scenarios

BY VINCE ELLIS FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Editor's note: Story updated at 8:38 p.m.

INDIANAPOLIS - Before I headed back to the 'D', I thought I'd give y'all a quick update on the Pistons' playoff seeding.

All is not lost in their quest to avoid the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

If the 39-41 Pistons win their last two games (Monday against the Bulls, Wednesday at Miami), they would secure the No. 7 seed over the Bulls (40-40) because they have a better conference record. They would face the Celtics, who clinched the No. 2 seed Saturday night.

The Pistons even have a shot at the No. 6 seed and a date with the Orlando Magic, although the 76ers (40-40), who lost to the Raptors today, would have to lose their last two games (Tuesday vs. Boston and Wednesday at Cleveland).

OK, back to the Motown to get ready for Monday's showdown with the Bulls.

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NBA Today: Pistons Guaranteed Non-Winning Season

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Rodbiev Blackey is still starting, but is losing minutes to Will Bystom.

The Detroit Pistons belief to get used to find for the first time share later Morten as they list 10th-167 in Indiana haterday, moding a dress-game winning streok, the ester's best our by over a month.

The righth-place Pixtons' recent surge has gone for rangin, with the Chicago Bulls surging of late, and souring over Detroit and into seventh place with their who over the Bobeste Somethy. Somethy's best and only invents Denoit's first non-vitating season code. 2009-01, but also semonsty damages the Pintons "dismoss of regioning the corrects seed and armiding Cleveloud in the receiving round. How much do you think the Focus - a team with an ughvaccin history with Dulitai ... enjoyed bending the Pistuas chances?

He course. Describ still has a golden apparamity with the Etalla coming to town on Manday night - a going that will likely seal both teams? fates,

Clearly, the Pistress' does at heigh a power to the Best are over. They was 39 games last season - a seventh straight pres at at least 50 Ws - but have just to even reactivities 40 win mark this season, with rest two gorden to go. The Alben Freezon trade was a flason, contains it obvious that it's time to this thing up fortunately, there's been soros pleasant developments unlong some of the team's younger players, specifically in the backment

Rodney Mackey has maintained his starting job despite some recein competition from Will Byman. However, his marries are down lately (he spent the cotice frenth quiette on the beach Sameday) and he hase't excelly been lighting up the sourcheard. Of course, 5-for-17 shooting over the pass two games come ments quarts on the tensor menerally not to took teaming of the sentential of the control of the plus side. Studies continues to facilitate, dropping almost seven dames per game over the past times contests. And his less than normal working will keep into freek contexplay of time. Studies sail guilting the some member of teambes he did had north, but his owners have to be pleased with the fact that his perinder game is studing signs of life with five treps to an April games so far. While Studies hast't exploded like many of as predicted heading into the season, he has made algorithms progress, becausing a much higger part of the Cetroli offices and showing glimpour of being in auside tötéid.

Specking of Byman, be's energed as one of the team's best players over the post month, gaining nice tracking in factor, leagues as a result, is fact, if you and a last-grap posit, Byttoto could provide it for your team. He turned in another fine ording Sotorday, scoring 16 points in 21 ordiness with six assets, forth limited soul a key stead have in the gates. He was on the floor at crunch time . scoring or assisting on US of Debrit's last 27 profits . so it's christian he's truly ingrained houself as a key commonstraf the team. Could you use 15 points and 4.5 mounts per game? That's what Byonum is providing his awaren so far in April, and he's even starting in horst up the occasional long homb, averaging one attempt per game from beyond the arc. After spending the past two seasons playing in Israel, Hymnu has followed die Aothory Profess model, and like the Saptor guard, looks like he's back in the NBA for good.

Valence Richard Handiton said Saturday's less tide 't matter because the Fistens are already in the glopol's and apparently den't cont who they play ... securiting to Hip any ways. Hamilton's been inconsisted of late, but he brought his game Saturday, scoring a team-large 23 points with five seciets. Our rebounds and two 3-pointers. Fin only work 10-of 22 (noissing a key that with about a minute and a half to play thet would have not Detroit up by there) but oversely can't complain, as he's shot the both well labely (46 per cent to April). Manifton also seems to have colored dozen from his borrage of lang distance those last resek, he put up 14 trays in a two gione span, but has interoprised a much town reasonable server 3-quinters in the three geores show. Although it's been a stronge season for finnition, spending some time as the civil man offer beving been a full-time starter his entire can in Dented, no still has managed to get started-type minutes, with 34 per going. And with 15.5 FCoA per georg, any throught that AC's presence would cut into Rip's tructies has ulsu been unfounded in fact, he's gotten enough place to be the team's leading accret - something he's done every single season since landing in Me Veren served years ago. Unfortunately, offer enjoying an excellent season shouting the ball in 1697-418, Hamilton has singigled flor year.

After enturing his first single digit scoring night of Arms on Friday. Payabaun Brince homical back Seturday, sinking 2-of 9 from the field and all three of his attempts from the charity strips for 18 points in 47 months. He even had a play called for thin by seach Michael Carry out of a dinastic with tess than a mbute to play, however, he had it stolen from him --nee of four TOs -- and he managed just three boards and one assist with no blocks or steads. Those again, as we observed lest meads, a lack of steats is nothing new for Prince. It's a damn good thing Prince was shooting the lights out Saturday, becomes be's out gatting tosses leading affected by the emergence of Bysum. He's only starting 13.5 PPG in April, and unfortunately the rost of his numbers are suffering as well. The duratile Prince has enjoyed a fine year - its hest since 2004-20 - setting a conser tigh in 54°C and FGA, but he a beau generally ineffective when owners used him the most as they buttle in their fection piografik



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Five surprises from Motown Showdown

Present by Stephen Bert April 13, 2009 16 36916. The state's travel edgeon our interaced in Contact County, with the Chicago St Express winning the 17 under division, Legion the 18-under division, see Team Did too the 15 under division at the mustange Mannen Showdown, Hora wells five reveletions from this find westered

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count trick anyone sale this one coming. Just played great recketted together fill euter attliebs and overed a long. Sidled and well-appoint team — our one and by the cabo's holized point goard, Fint Forces soon Paints Lucas-Pany.

A this Descript Site can the 16-funder like at this counterment in 2007 and reached the This Descript Site can the 16-funder like this brushers. The Fire test to the Mustarias again, this time in documental hestian in the 17-choice serve 77-78. The Fire led by one tate, when the Mustangal Keldt Applicy strate for what most assumed would be the gener's that shot. He meased as the clock wound down. The Mustange' LaDonnee Henton got the remaind, but up a sold and was fould! -- basket good the rate sext. But most in the curved though the gratie had ended before ther.

Ac is its highlion, the Fire was hit of lough PSL kide. 6-5 Osee Tech surror Lareer Brown looks printed to irreal out He top a lake first step (non-PS), vanety, S-G pinior Kyle Vineles, a beginne strook screen for North Fernington, is in playmenor chade with the time. The's pullow and confident with the half, is strong group took left east tight, out precess well on the break. But when Vindles times out of the hadrond, you know this growly to smoot and he readly needs to improve his decisionmeking in that aspect.

3. Campulan Bunck's over dotter

OB's now 17-under team has been the stable best in its age group for years. It is a one of the core group. Ann Arbur Richard supporting supposition from Herback to the Socials, outstway organis that weekend without frontisoust stativistic 0.7 surfer Mo Conce has Believille and 7:0 junior Brandon Crane, But Common Gond kniked good in every game, and was bugh white being eleminated by evertual chambion. Chicago D1 Express. The least of Harbook is durie than overcome thereis to eve newsceners from Rosewille, 5-2 runter Brandon Securit and 6-5 junior Commission nevicionere dom ricosense, ou conor prancon uscan ano o o autor Commisse. Postor, Grook is o amosti, long ving vinc piese afficiently, producing despite what are detended a giving film. Thoses with the mid-rating game. Portier was the teamsmorte highlight demost, a tree obtains the player, Ho's not implify shiped. audinantiana reginger access to the pea of player who access to be around the ball but moves really well and to the type of player who access to be around the ball more after than nor, Plays need on but ends (bods a charge).

6. Sky men playing half the game. Control shade half playing half the game. Control shade for junus Javien Larry and the Maskings' 5-8 junio. Also Gaude are very gifted post players - offensively. But their performances produced no net gain because if how they played no the other and There are a few times per game when extlactioning turns directly even get post traitable to play defense. Define when extlactions of the horse on the play he iteratily out this harrow on his laps and valued an exponent care for a larry. The consistence of Central (as a remarker), and the Ferent Hills Central Junior Walter Position (as a finisher) and durit have the troughness value to spand in for your Mortout. The Sky prior and facet big man appeared to the stand in for your Mortout. The Sky prior and facet big man appeared to the stand of for your Mortout. वाक्षणन्त्र । १ पेन्ह जन्दर बीटायी छोस्प वा विकारीस्प

S. Paristing ofposore hill

Personing test is tracy of service guardis, not to metrical XX+0 Mr. Spekested for its number Kosti Appling, in the Class in state creanging beoxicus, Appling worst be tacking for telephone partners next year. Strong and secerbia 6-11 treshmen Toronay Self sed Teach Charrol to the 10-under championship. Another good Perching treamner; guard, 640 Streams; walker, stars for RECOP's 15-unitar seem.

anna Tree Cesa (2) Cesa (Ce. V. Estado (C. Sacrosofic) (Caborido) - Asia la dec.,

COMMENTS (2)

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weeds to okgoinerry at consess at 164998 her 180 reustangs? I was very substraed clicked, see a 160 program; Whats the protestrive this program going diswit till? I saw a for of all faces that proved for the Mustangs in different uniforms. Here are a Dedu Jackson Tsaut debroit 17st Meurice Cooper Rosen Laganda 3 Pu Branding Korahay Team Dahloit 169 Piere Graskett Lagion 15s Devon Ivy Michigan Histocopea 1751 Anthony Guyeon 408 hoops 10: Ration Lucas Benry Legion 190 Debtel Dock ACE hoops 170 Associated has kild who plays for leading George now plays association with Topic Street 179. These are all good bizyers that used to play with Michigan Muchzings. but desit play with them assences. igi sage y podunique processories states Properties Miscourter - 940 466 to 11 25456 230 Championship: Team Debroit 70 Michigan Mustatigs 66 Notable Mayers: Team Debroids 6/4 forwards Rivan and Dillon Mickelf 12, Team Extrait's 6/ guarn Debroid bosometr 12, Mustatigs 5/4 Wang Marques Microry '12, Missberger 5:10 point guare Chris Mass '12, and steve believing is denied besemen, mercues memby and three hase and what athropies they go to V 58853 8883385 to colorographs 11 \$1000 US. Countaine (Conf. Fieve a Chemanna) Right up begalt Password: C Remotioner Ma (1996) ties ut the view constitutes acceptance of our light Sophetheth, France case Stephing Police
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April 13, 2009

Granholm touts Michigan to the nation

Is she right?

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In a Newsweek Magazine op-ed, Gov. Jennifer Granholm tells the nation why she believes Motown is uniquely positioned to supply the nation's energy turnaround.

It's Granholm at her best: passionate and positive."in Michigan, we are doing everything we can to become the home of this new electric auto industry — and to the jobs this industry will create. We've adopted unprecedented tax incentives to make sure that auto batteries are not only designed but produced and assembled in our state. Our No Worker Left Behind training initiative is giving displaced manufacturing workers the skills they need for "green jobs." We are tapping our world-class research universities and the 330 automotive research-and-development facilities in Michigan to develop the breakthrough technologies that will produce that next engine."

is Michigan seeing enough results for you to believe the gov is right about the state becoming a center of energy and automotive innovation? A move by the Obama administration to http://www.cnbc.com/id/3014/1258">purchase 17,600 finel efficient cars from Detroit by June is one good sign, right?

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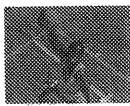
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Playoff Positioning Showdown in Motown - Chicago Bulls at Detroit Pistons

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S SHARE



The Charge Bully (40-40-50, 40-38-1 ATS, 40-35-2-0-0) and the Decree Courses (39-4) St., 34-40 ATS, 38-40 T G/U) will continue findership for postsesson position when they meet at The Polace of Automs 188s at 7:30 PM ET.

That Buils won their fourth straight game on Saturday. beating the Charlotte Bobosts 193-106 and telling to cover the spread for Bestis NBA online betting backers at a 9.5point home familie.

Victorian shuriding grantl Best Gordon accorded a gastre-high 38 points while the 335 combined points played Under the poster CAU total of 195.5 points

The Picture had disk needest times-grow whiching streak snapped in as 106-109 less to the Indiana Packes on Saturday anglit.

The Pietons tailed to cover the spread as E-point house fevertes while the final noise biaved Over the 206-point O/U torst.

Here is a book et tonight's bey trender, robrered by my to-depth analysis and 1884 free Picks.

The Bulk are 5-2 ATS of their fast 8 vs. MSA Control.

The Buils are 6-2 ATS in their lost 8 after allowing XDD poline or more in their previous game

The Pistons are S-C ATS in Stell but 8 Miceday gatoes.

The Plobons are 5-2 ATS in their last V games as a formula of 0.5-4.5.

The Bulls are 4-0 ATS in the lest 4 meetings in United.

The Over is 3-13 to the last 3 meetings in Detroit.

The Substate T.O ATS in the fost ? meetings.

The Over is 5-1-1 in the last 7 mainlings.

The Underdog is \$-3 ATS in the last 11 meetings

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Amergelet Debeve it or not destrict MSA upons betting entiresists, the Chicago Bullo have inversed the upward in seven attraignt and one of the wat 10 toerdings against the Debys Pietons while the Over the payed and in those of the lost four contests and seven of 10 overell.

While the Bulls are paying better backerball than their countersame in this contest, I like the reterandation listing to put out the occur for MEA sports betting backers with a nutton, hardfought torons will over their tongtime dedoor dubit.

MBA Free PRES: Pistano - 4 Points/Over 1967: Yors Faints



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WOO COVERNOMERS

An Auto Merger Could Pay Off

Reserved Lines in 1988

The Ubited States government is pressoring the creditions of Sensorial Spages, and Chrysier, to help the correshess return to need to by assumpting debt for equity.

Swange Prie Image

A Congress to the congress of the congress of

That reight word if the lenders thought the equity would be worth something. And it might be — if the two companies merged and climinated substantial mosts.

The trouble is the government seems to favor bringing in 1990 of Italy as a majority shareholder in Chrysler. It's easy to see why this option appeals. It could leave Chrysler as 4 stand-sions business, in theory preserving many occur into

moore lengths and Carlo

Add to Portfolio

Gerard Morato Cota Pad Sph Gara your Partolo s But despite Wat's strengths, which include compotent normagement, there is a better may to set up a stable. Amorious car industry. Rother than prolong Chrysler's debices figure as an independent business, the government standed do its nest in weld Chrysler and Q.M. together.

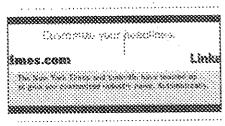
That may second countermulative. Marging the two companies under the suspices of hardringtey protection second produce pain, with thousands of jobs lost, federics shatered, bronds extinguished and dealerships dosed.

Yet reducing copacity is as cracial to beloing the domestic car industry regain some semblance of its factory strenging a skashing the combined \$91 billion in debt and health care liabilities that bedevil Clayster and G.M

True, Motown's carmokers have made many embacks in terroi (ears. But the function artist problem remains: they manufacture too many cors and sail by few. And they are sailt losing market share. Eachioning a partnerobly between Chrysler and Fint was t change that. Putting Chrysler, Defroit's smallest carmaker, together with G.M. could.

If would also make the combination more valuable for coedities. When the idea of a merger surfaced lost Cotober, the two companies projected jointmini cost savings of as much as any billion a year. But assume sometions more conservative. If G.M. were to take on Chrysler's light trucks and S.U.V.'s and its comp business, a significant part of Chrysler's output, it might be able to save \$5 billion normally.

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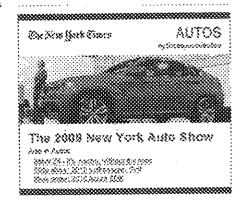
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The net present value of that savings would be around \$30 billion. That's greater than the 522 billion in Rabilities that Chrysler test today to serier creditors, the government and lis employees. That should help persuade Chrysler's and G.M.'s leaders and unions to swap their daines on the company for equity in a merged centry.

Here's how: Right new, the two companies' areditors have being offered either pentiles on the dollar and some equity or, in the case of G.M.'s tenetholders, equity alone. As separate firms, the two carnakers will still need to reduce expanity. They will also need tens of littlerns more in aid.

This deld to the government will most likely rank sheed of landon and unions to the event either collapses again, or both do. The equity branked to creditors, and maybe their debt too, coold easily to worthless.

Consider a G.M.-Chrysler combination, though, and the cost savings significantly liabiter the potential entity value. Assume G.M.'s operating earnings hit 3 percent of consensus revenue estimates of Sign billion in 2011. After taxes, the ner present value of these would be some \$25 billion. Tacking on a slimmed-down theysler's potential extrange might increase that to Sigs billion.

Add on the value of the synergies, and G.M. Chrysler could be worth about \$63 billion to his corners, namely the unions, lengious and the government. Even if Washington pairs up an additional \$40 billion in keep the company afford. That calcultion still implies all creditus comers could recomp 50 percent of what they are owed. That's better than current offers circulating among stakeholiters.

The had news is that it implies the government would lose a churk of the owner it has plugged into the exceeders smoot becomber, but in reality, this is already likely. Puring, tire two together has the benefit of creating a profitable carmoker in a bottor toosition to pay some of the cast back.

And sli would not be lost for Fist in this situation, it could snap up some of Chrysler's unwanted factories and taid-off workers to build Affa Romson and Cinquesentes. And there's no reason 15of's chief executive. Sergio Marchionne, could not still strike an afficace with a merged G M.-Cheyeler. Who knowed He might even have a shor at running the shop.

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Even the Casinos in Detroit Don't Want Allen iverson

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Home

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The Mess in Distrop is in Second of a Subjection

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lverson, though, has been benned mostly for his truncah behavior. He is a best sepen lesst his toppe is lot, estimation throughly his elope on buildir at the sincial. He has been warried is but improper richerior of the 190'es. repositivity, tile is ottor tood one discriptive, providing to introcess, side to decrease other players and the was stuff. Starter this season, are the carea a staturbance of a casino octoba of Whosepolis He a also samed a test teptilishon at Attorio Obj.

The ALL sage in Motern somen to manages to get more and nondepressing with earth tieseing day. It used end soon enough,

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88 Responses to 'Even the Casinos in Detroit Don't Want Allen Iverson

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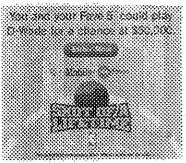
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Motown CC Win Inaugural Michigan Sixes. Greater Detroit Coits Triumph in Junior Division.

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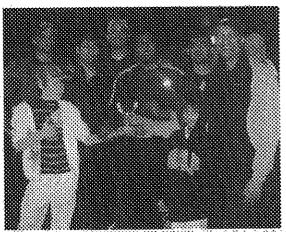
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Sancer Assistance

Motives: Chicker Child took home the Coust Duteron treaty, in the mangurar reforegan Scare statost tournament, respect by Micrologica Chicket Academy on Statisty, April 12, while Greater Detroit C.C., Goba won the James Officeron.

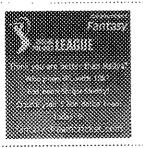
Note teams completed in the violenade, scenario barrowness, which provided an importancy of propose for the logistring of the local outdoor season, eagerly and/craston by the six local orbitation of door Methods.



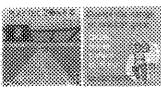
The roundment's argenting according MCK thead Coaches Vicedit to International and Shyam daysecutor, plus MCA information Oberbal Michael Mann, burged the brundment is success and hope to make it as coaced event on the Mainigan officed potential. They were designed that players have cover up to trues hower to paragraph, and cased with placement that some singly cased and filled the come at Total Sports, which tone of Metro Custod a sup history sports healthes), who the sound of leveling on visitors for such and on Yostor Stundon.

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Seventiem motorice were played in this parent, with the grach the format reverting others askernesses, good running between the inchess, tracking only obtained between the inches. Intelligent locating, and obtain helding.

Mahwan (causened by Kachif Akhten were loosed in the open division by tunners up Gresser Central ICC (Fenses Cuber), which last is the bina by Stickers has, and by pictofront-process recipied Central ICC (Fenses Cuber), which last is the bina by Stickers has, and by pictofront-process recipied Central Process (Central Sticker) and Great Reports (CE) (Fensed Itan), as well as an aid how them reconsecution the highest of blockings (SE) (Books), once very reservely respect the playeds. despite indicates a deletion on the eventual memorians.

Watches were proped in quadrante on the corners full classic fisticiant source, pitch, using a toursect heaver versions of the bandoer six a side, rules,

These rules kept the ball in also and kept flerders, serbasis listbargio other morths of sorver suct contraction takes his to disclose wells required live, while the only occurs boundaries were incent reading assumen place their socies and fielders chase the tool on the ground. Every player was assurated to both one over portioning, listeding filestwin's agoldst would keeper. Hereen Magnessia to sentend other has test tool their if not for my travilleg speci, we would probably have jiven) by a marks, much wider margin."

Some observers shought the hiddestrie modesty was, perhaps, somestick, vibile everyond enjoyed the good purce of follows governobed by a follow; in which players found themselves in unsambler streetions, whether certain the streets or with the test.



welvesting the loost stable behalf team, the international team, the International Challengers (Suntry Vereball) and juries bean, the Missingen Royals (Missiash Peop. The Royals (average age steelin) abus halo a single-rentret markey part for soom the cooper voncense gisoner år fre tournament disir woses keeper, ninn-year and Nert blacks, who namerally beet trip hitting swelne-year-old

In the Corn Division the MVP trocky west to Toleda's Resilvators revisite basing similar economical, stransie bevelig economics, si para economia conden da reach, the apociamido hidrig sed plagard abone plan of Pahad habi of Grand Ropida one birn the Sept Baserian sevotal white the

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to the Junior division, 3000 Coder World Pates was the unconstitute charge for MVP, constantivity eagt both last and ball, write Deepak Challe's controlled aggression shape McAla Chadangasa in contention and sent for the Book Streemen spare, shat MCAlat the railedy december of spanner flexon 2 and open dentinebated the value of a test flexof and an application and open dentinebated the value of a test flexof and a good one and length, to take the Sect Errefer sward.

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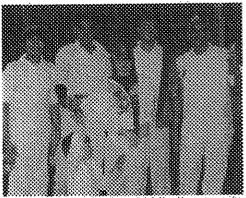
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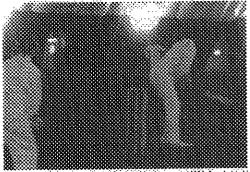
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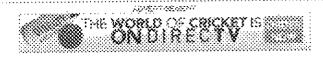
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BEHIND THE STRIPES

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Franklin lands in Motown

By Dave Matter

Posted April 15, 2009 at 11:01 a.m.



Franklin

Waived by Kausas City on Monday, Lorner Mil wide receiver Will Franklin has repoinedly found an NFL home: Debrot.

Fox Sports, onto has reported here that the Lions claimed Franklin off waivers, acquiring the second-year wideout over four other receiver-needy teams that made waiver claims, including Franklin's homelown St. Louis Rams. The Web site reported that Oxidand, Indianapolis and Philadelphia also made claims.

Other than Pre Bowler Calvin Johnson, the Lions seem't exactly leaded with established wide receivers. The roster also includes John Standeford, Travis Taylor, Chris Hannon. Adam Jennings and recently added free agent Bryom Johnson.

The last Missouri Tiger to play for the Come: rurning bedd/special teams see Brock Olivo, who was in Detroit from 1998-2001. Other notable MU players who wore the silver and blue: Damy Lakose (1961-63), James Wolder (1990), Jon Staggers (1975), Issues Caver (1983), Detreutions Johnson (1983-86) and Harry Colon (1992-94, 1997)

Meanwhile. Chiefs blogger Bob Greuz sheds some light on Konsas City's reason for waiving Franklin here. Franklin was a non-focus on special brains.

Franklin is the highest drafted player from lest year's draft (No. 105 overall) to be out by the team that drafted him.

fi comments

Washington Times columnist Mike Jones is reporting that Flip Saunders will likely become the new head coach of the Washington Wizards next season...

Is Flip Saunders Headed to Washington?



Washington Times columnist Mike Jones is reporting that Flip Sanuders will likely become the new head couch of the Washington Wizards next season.

Sanuders started his head coaching career in Minessota, where he led the Timberwolves to the playoffs in eight of his nine full seasons as head coach. However, after a discapolating season in 2004-2005, he was let go by general manager Kevin McHale.

Shortly after, he replaced future Hall-of-Eame coach Larry Brown in Motown in 2005, and led the Pistons to three consecutive Central Division tirles. However, be took over a feam uninterested with regular season titles.

After just three seasons Saunders was let go as he failed to lead the perennial Eastern Conference powerhouse past the Eastern Conference Finals.

In 2009, he will take over a Wizards teem that is embarking on their first losing season since 2003. Destined for the lottery, the team hopes to make a better choice than last time when the franchise selected Kwame Brown with the number one pick in the 2003 NBA Draft.

Nevertheless, despite being tied with the Los Angeles Clippers for the second worst record in the entire league (19-61), the Wizards appear confident beading into next season. It-year veteran and team capitals Antewn Jamison, is a recent interview with probaskethalloews.com, declared that the Wizards "will be back next season".

That confidence banks on the health of a team that has been depleted due to jojiny since the 2006-2007 season.

Consistent eight-year veteran center Evendon Haywood has played in just five games this season, after having surgery on his right wrist in the off season.

Talented big man Andre Blatche missed several games this season as well as many of his reasonates, as the team has been plagued by book, ande and hamstring injuries.

Nevertheless, there is no bigger question mark on this team than the stability of the knees of Gilbert

Arcnas.

After signing a six-year contract worth S111 million, Arenas has participated in only two regular season games this season, and fifteen total in the past two years.

In a recent interview with David Aldridge, Arcnas discussed how he has seen so much improvement within the conference, especially bitter playoff rivals Cleveland Cavaliers.

After knocking the Wizards out playoffs three straight seasons, Lebron James' Cavaliers hold the best record in the NBA this season.

Aldridge pointed out that in that 2006-2007 season, the Wizards held one of the best records in the conference at 26-13 record heading into February. Nevertheless, Arenas acknowledged that the landscape of the eastern conference has changed.

It will be the unenviable task of Saunders to lift this Wizards team to a contending level. Known as an offensive coach, Saunders will have his share of weapons in his arsenal. However, since the big three in Caron Butler, Gilbert Arenas, and Antawn Jamison was assembled in 2005-2006, the team has never won more than 43 games.

Heading into next season, the Wizards will have to decide if they can compete at a high level as currently constructed.

Does the team need an inside presence more than it needs the likes of Butler and Antawn Jamison?

Can it depend on the often injured Gilbert Arenas to take them to new heights next season?

Is Arenas really a point guard, and Deshawn Stevenson a starting 2-guard on a championship team?

These questions as well as many others will need to be answered by the Washington front office along with Saunders before he begins next season.

FEEDBACK



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Wednesday, April 15, 2009 3:52:00 AM

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Motown suffers a bout of C sickness

Neha Rishi / DNA

Even as the auto industry gravitates towards mini, compact and premium cars due to an increase in demand for them, C-plus segment sedans such as Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Skoda Octavia and Laura and Chevrolet Optra have taken a massive hit.

According to industry association Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), sales of mini and compact cars went up 10% year-on-year in March. Those for premium cars shot up 45% in the same period.

However, the C-plus segment, which SIAM refers to as the 'A4 executive' category, has seen a degrowth of 35-45% in the March 2008 to March 2009 period, say carmakers. Major players in this segment include Honda Siel Cars India Ltd, Skoda Auto, and Toyota Kirloskar Motors (TKM).

Dilip Chenoy, director general, SIAM, said that the C-plus segment has contracted due to the growth of mini and compact cars. "Unlike these segments, there have been no new launches in the C-plus category, which would have helped stimulate demand. Also, the price of the models in this segment hasn't changed. There is a sort of stagnation in the C-plus segment."

He said the segment faces an additional excise duty of 20% and as most of their components are imported, the production costs for carmakers have gone up. Besides, the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar and the yen has also had an impact

Ashutosh Dixit, general manager (sales), Skoda Auto India, said that the sales of Octavia and Laura have seen a sharp decline over the last year. He said, "People are now moving downwards to small and mid-sized cars due to the cost factor. Those who wish to upgrade are moving upwards to the premium segment as there have been quite a few upgraded models such as the BMW 3 series, Mercedes Benz E class and Skoda Superb."

Though the automaker is looking to launch Fabia Combi and Roomster by early 2010, both are in the 'C', or mid-sized car, segment. There are no plans to introduce any new models in the C-plus category, Dixit said.

Honda Siel, whose Civic leads the C-plus category with a 40% market share, has seen a 65% decline in sales over the last year. Gyaneshwar Sen, vice president (marketing), Honda Siel Cars India Ltd, said the sharp decline is because many Civic buyers are big businessmen who have now curtailed expenditure on cars as a cost-cutting measure.

Toyota Kirloskar Motors, however, has been luckier than Skoda and Honda.

Sandeep Singh, deputy managing director (marketing), TKM, said, "We have managed to stay on the surface as we introduced the new Corolla, which stimulated demand. But lack of financing for cars above Rs 10 lakh is still a dampener for our sales volumes." Currently, Toyota Corolla has a market share of 31% in the C-plus segment.

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Home > Per Favore! Fiat Asks for Money

Per Favore! Fiat Asks for Money

By matthew.debord Created 04/15/2009 - 12:06pm

The Sausage [1]

It hasn't taken Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat, long to zoom past his fellow European automaker executive peers and become The Man astride the global manufacturing stage. What's truly impressive is the counterintuitive way he's done it. Unlike Wendelin Wiedeking, [2] the Porsche CEO who's deploying a huge sack of cash to buy up Volkswagen, Marchionne is essentially asking the U.S. and Canadian governments to pay Fiat to take Chrysler off their hands. [3] If the partnership goes through - and there are only two weeks remaining in the Obama-mandated timetable to make it work - Chrysler will be eligible for a further \$6 billion in loans, and more importantly, not have to return the moncy it's already borrowed from the taxpayers to stay in business.

Marchionne's attitude toward this whole deal has only advanced his unflinching view of the car industry. In an interview with the Toronto Globe and Mail. [4] he said that Fiat's plan demands the "acknowledgment of the fact that we're poor." What he means is that Fiat, although revived under his leadership, has gotten clobbered like everyone else over the past year. Rather than bringing actual money to the table, the Italian carmaker wants to serve up smaller vehicles, such as the revamped Fiat 500 [5], and fuel-efficient technologies. Fiat also wants to use Chrysler's dealer network to bring Alfa Romeo back to North America.

For the past few months, Marchionne has been calling the Chrysler shots, neatly brushing aside Chrysler's owner, Cerberus Capital Management, and publicly neutering its executives. It's the chain-smoking chap from Milan who's pressing the UAW for concessions [6] and collaborating with Steve Rattner and the Obama administration's auto task force. This, of course, is a Motown nightmare. However, Detroit should get over it. At least Marchionne is an executive at an automobile company, not an angel of death from the finance sector or a Beltway bureaucrat. Besides, while Fiat may be poor, Detroit is impoverished. And that could be the cultural common ground that Chrysler needs to survive.

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Recharging Detroit

The future of the U.S. car industry hinges on cutting-edge battery technology. Can Motown catch up to the rest of the world?

By Paul Keegan Last Updated: April 15, 2009: 4:20 PM ET

(Fortune Magazine) -- After years of churning out giant gas-guzzlers, lobbying against fuel-economy standards, and refusing to repent even while begging Congress for a bailout, the humbled and chastened Big Three gathered recently at the Detroit auto show to finally embrace the electrification of the automobile.

A main attraction was the battery that powers GM's Volt. The battery was an ugly thing, a hulking 6-foot tall, 400-pound, T-shaped monstrosity that stood upright at center stage in the auto show like a giant cross promising one last chance at salvation for the crippled American car industry.

The Obama administration has become a believer too, making clear that the best way to save the U.S. car industry is for Detroit to build clean cars. The recently passed stimulus package includes \$2 billion in grants for advanced battery manufacturing, and the Department of Energy is disbursing \$25 billion in low-interest loans to encourage companies to build green vehicles. President Obama's goal is to have 1 million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015 - although that's only a fraction of the nation's 250 million vehicles.

Since nothing in the fleet of advanced electric vehicles soon coming our way - not even their simple, toylike motors - is nearly as important as their giant battery packs, a procession of politicians and industry leaders are proclaiming the arrival of a new, multibillion-dollar American battery industry that will soon generate thousands of green jobs across America's recession-ravaged heartland. In January, Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm signed a bill providing \$335 million in state tax credits for carbattery makers locating in her state. "We want to be the battery capital of the world!" she said.

The question is, can America build a competitive battery business fast enough to compete with the Asians? The odds don't look good. For basic battery R&D, the U.S. is depending on a few small companies, such as Ener1 and A123 Systems. Asian giants like Sanyo, NEC, and LG have been mass-producing the batteries for years. Unless the U.S. changes its ways dramatically, it is likely to get creamed in the Great Battery Race - making it even tougher for Detroit's auto industry to stage a comeback.

A turning point occurred several years ago when lithium ion emerged as the chemistry of choice to

power the next generation of hybrids, plug-ins, and all-electric vehicles. The rechargeable lithium-ion battery is a remarkable piece of technology - the main reason your cellphone fits into your shirt pocket smaller, lighter, more powerful, and longer-lasting than anything that had come before. It's still very expensive and has safety issues (remember those laptops bursting into flames? That was lithium batteries overheating). But if lithium-ion chemistry can live up to its promise of transforming the automobile from gas to electric power, it may rank among the greatest technological achievements of the early 21st century.

The problem for the U.S. is that Asia's battery makers are now attacking the car market with a vengeance. Not even choked credit markets and plunging car sales could stop the stampede: Last fall Panasonic bought Sanyo, the world's leading lithium-ion battery manufacturer, for \$9 billion, to supply Toyota (TM) with batteries for new versions of its popular Prius and other hybrids. Around the same time, Nissan and NEC Corp. announced a \$1 billion joint investment in battery development. Japanese and European battery makers - but no Americans - were swarming into Bolivia looking for contracts to mine salt flats for lithium. (Enough lithium exists in the world to build 1.2 billion cars, enough to replace the global fleet nearly twice over, according to a recent report by Michael Lew of ThinkEquity, an investment bank.)

And when the Chinese battery powerhouse BYD, which entered the car business only a few years ago, boasted that it would become bigger than Toyota by 2025, few snickered (see "Buffett Takes Charge"). According to the investment management firm Alliance Bernstein, the global market for lithium-ion car batteries could reach \$150 billion by 2030 - more than Ford's sales for all of last year.

Industrialists the world over understand what is only now dawning on Detroit: The handful of companies that end up controlling the battery industry will also control the car industry. Electric-car companies want to be located near their battery suppliers to save shipping costs. They also want to be near markets with the biggest potential - countries where high gas prices make the economics of buying expensive electric cars far more attractive. On both counts that means Europe and Asia, not the U.S.

Batteries will give car companies their competitive edge. They will determine how fast your car can accelerate, how far it will go on a single charge, how quickly it can recharge, and - since it can account for as much as half the cost of an all-electric vehicle - how much you'll pay for it. A battery for an allelectric car now costs between \$10,000 and \$20,000. This spring BMW will lease to a small group of customers in the U.S. an electric Mini whose battery has an impressive range of 150 miles but is estimated to cost a whopping \$30,000 - that's for the battery, not the car.

Over the next few years, the market will basically divide in two: all-electric cars and plug-in hybrids. Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn, a big supporter of purely electric cars, reflected the growing view that a sea change was taking place when he told reporters at a plant opening last summer that any car still using oil was "unsustainable." "I want a pure electric car," he said. "I don't want a range extender. I don't want another hybrid. It's going to be zero emissions."

If he's right, cars may soon no longer need an internal-combustion engine, transmission, muffler, air filter, spark plugs, or any other part from last century's age of the gas-powered engine. However, the limited range of most pure electric cars - 100 or so miles on a charge - make them ideal for city use or short hops in the suburbs. Because of that, they aren't likely to capture more than 1% to 5% of the global auto market by 2015, according to IBM Global Business Services. Toyota, GM, and other automakers are betting on plug-in hybrids that run on a combination of batteries and a conventional internalcombustion engine that keep going as long as you keep the tank full. Battery makers, meanwhile, don't really care about the mix of the fleet. They know the global car industry has reached a tipping point: It's going electric. Exhibit: A

Page: 657

Because battery technology will become the core competency that defines the modern car company, it will hardly be the kind of intellectual property you'd want to outsource to a foreign auto-supply company. Sure, GM (GM, Fortune 500) can assemble those T-shaped battery packs for the Volt domestically. But the most crucial aspect is developing a safe, reliable chemistry and using that proprietary technology to mass-produce the hundreds of cells required for a single battery pack. Too bad for GM that the cells for the Volt actually will come from a Korean company, LG Chem.

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Tigers close out strong homestand with torn Sox

BY MARY CATON, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE APRIL 15 2009

DETROIT — The Detroit Tigers will take a home stand like that all season long.

In their first Comerica Park appearance of 2009, the Tigers won four games, lost one and had one rained out.

They closed out their Motown show with a 9-0 shutout of the pesky Chicago White Sox Wednesday afternoon.

"it's a very respectable homestand, i'm very pleased with it," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "Now, we'll go on the road and hopefully continue to play like that."

The Tigers are away for the next nine games, beginning Friday in Seattle.

On an afternoon filled with sombre overtones, the Tigers took a similarily serious approach to the game.

A two-out double by Placido Polanco broke up a scoreless pitching duel in the fifth and lifted the Tigers to a strangely subdued victory.

Honouring Jackie Robinson for breaking baseball's colour barrier was long planned but putting together a scoreboard video memorial to Mark Fidrych was the hasty result of the former Tigers death Monday in an accident.

As a tip of the cap to Robinson, players on both teams were his number 42 on otherwise nameless jerseys.

Polanco's double off Chicago starter Jose Contreras made it 2-0 Detroit in the fifth. The Tigers tacked on three more in their next at bat on a first-pitch homer by Miguel Cabrera (his fourth) and a two-run single by fill-in shortstop Ramon Santiago.

"Those add-on runs are like a knockout blow," Detroit catcher Gerald Laird said. "It keeps a team on its heels."

The Tigers added on four more off Chicago's bullpen in the seventh and eighth frames. Trying to make a comeback from a surgically repaired Achilles tendon, Contreras is now 0-2 with a 6.97 ERA.

On the flip side, Armando Galarraga owned half of Detroit's wins in this homestand.

He pitched 6 1/3 innings of shutout ball against the White Sox Wednesday — before 20,212 fans — moving him to 2-0 with a 0.68 ERA.

"He was tremendous," Leyland said. "He made them mis-hit the ball and that's usually a sign that you've got late life on your pitches."

Leyland also loved a new facet to Detroit's game in 2009.

"I think you've seen the importance of speed in this homestand," Leyland said. "Josh Anderson was creating some stuff with his legs today."

Anderson was 2-for-2 with two walks, two runs scored and a stolen base.

"I love it here," said Anderson who arrived in a spring-training deal with Atlanta. "You can tell the people here are really passionate about baseball."

Windsor Star

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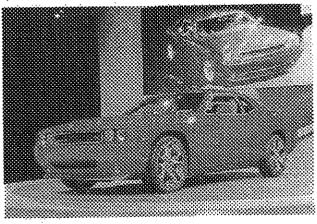
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post-gazette wow

Wheels: Challenger, a reminder of past, argues for survival of Chrysler

Thursday, April 18, 1889 By Epp Hapmannas, Phobburgh Pubb Gozobo



Covers

The 2006-Dodge-Chatalager Sciences stock at \$21,220 and the last economy natives are 12 and the object for the Highway.

Think you're beyond having ion after 40?

The 2009 Dodge Challenger is almost guaranteed to put a smile on your face, particularly for those of us - including use - who temember the original Challenger of the 1970s. If you can't enjoy this car, you'd better call the undertaker

Not that the Challenger doesn't have its issues.

In the base SE model, tougue weakness is a real problem for the 250 horsepower 3.5-litter V-6. And the four-speed automatic is completely outdated, with both melliciout use of power and fuel economy that isn't as high as it could be. It all adds up to shuggish takeoff and slow pickup on the highway.

The doors are huge, and shoost guaranteed to bit the car text in you in a tight parking lot. And the mer seat, even though it's way mounter than the original, still feels smig.

But those are the last things you think about with the Challenger. You will be too busy enjoying the car's strong handling, stable feel and -- with the higger engines -- the basy exhaust sounds and acceleration guaranteed to curl your toes

For those of us of a certain age, this is a memory trip beyond compare. I cranked up sense of my old Motourn unsic on my iPod, checked out the hopped up rear fenders and was in sheer bliss.

The styling cass nicely optiate the look of the old model without losing important details that take you back to glory days gone by.

I was lacky enough to drive two of these cars, a Chattenger SE and the other a powerful R/T model equipped with a version of the texendary Henri V-S.

The 5E model has a base price of \$21,320, which is competitive with the Ford Mestang and Chevy Canno. That price includes side curtien front and mor air bags, touring suspension, rear stabilizer bar, temote keyless entry, power brakes and accessories, air conditioning, lumbar support for driver and front passenger, an audio system with MPE capability and tilt/fetescope steering.

Fuel economy ratings are 17 mpg in the city and 25 on the highway for the SE. You get Chrysler's lifetime powerfrain limited warranty, too.

Mustang official Site

2010 Chevy. Camaro Prices
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Dodge has apped the ante on its interiors. Fire two-toned leather scats are supportive and beautiful. The dashboard design is quite reminiscent of the original Challenger with Large Total gauges.

The trunk in the Challenger also is huge and the rear scat is a 60/40 fold-down design.

The SE model's biggest problem is the lack of enough low-end torque, although once you get going, acceleration is adequate in mid-range.

That problem did not plague the other test car, the Challenger R/T. Equipped with a 5.7 liter, 370 horsepower V-8, the R/T -priced at about \$38,000 with lots of features -- has neck-snapping acceleration and an efficient five-speed automatic transmission. The R/T fuel economy is rated at 16/25.

The R/T also is a more eye-catching model, thanks to the chrome wheels, bigger tires and flashy stripes.

On the whole, Challenger makes a strong case for Chrysler's survival - and it doesn't make too bad a case for having fun once a while, either.

Don Hammonds can be reached at than monds@post gazete tom or 412-263-1538.

First published on April 16, 2009 at 12:00 am



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More plant closings, job cuts due at GM

CEO says it will need to shut more U.S. plants and from more jobs by 2017 from it thought just two months ago.

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NEW YORK (CINNIAncey com) - Seneral Motors veil emountee more jud outs and planti closing plants to the coming weeks, 050 Feb. Hemierson said Friday.

The engration artificiality, which has until some 1 to reach agreements with creditors and unions in order to avoid a government-forced bankruptcy, originally lold regulators in February that it planned to eliminate 14 of its current 47 U.S. plante by 2012, and reduce U.S. staff by about 20,000 jubs.

Henderson, speaking in reporters Friday, tid told give any motolis others executly have meany more july data each plant closures would be necessary, but said there should be an announcement before June 1.

"There is no epistion that we we took to revise out plan to out desperandiqui fesser ... there off be builter radictions in reorgiower," bet sakt

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Moviever, Flenderson dismissed spaculation that GM (GM). Porture 5000 was planning to out its Stillow and GMC bronds and force only on Chevrolat and Caribbo.

"We're exceled about the ability of the (Bunck and GMC) brands to generate customer enthusiasm and profitability," he said. "We're developing our plans around four core brands today "

as all of easiers veen vocations on that the money once an grobitories with a borrientptoy fishing, tother than an out-of-court restructioning, saying the company still prefers in avoid bankrupicy.

But no east he couldn't give adds as in how bised if was first the correpanty will be oble to avoid bentitudity, editing first tic decision had yet been made on a bankhiptoy. He said the final decision on when and whether to file will be made in conjension with the government.

He sid say that the chance of a benkruptcy is from a nubbank f than it teed been even severed veroes ego, given what the company needs to accomplish and the abon time it has to do SQ.

Photos



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Henderson sisc said that negotiations with both the United Auto Workers unless rold the company a bondholders have not yet started in earnest.

He said the company reads to come up with a new business pran before there can be intensive negotiations with those parties. He tabled the UAVE visit need to conclude talks with rival Chrysler ELC, which is working under seen a tighter desidine than GM in avoid backruptcy, a

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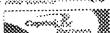
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Stuttgart Is Driving Old Europe Past Detroit: Norman Pearlstine Share | Email | Print | A A A

Commentary by Norman Pearlstine

April 17 (Bloomberg) -- Spring has come to Stuttgart. Cafes are full and young people walk arm in arm through the city's crowded pedestrian malls. The central train station is spotless as are the city's parks. Germany's Motown is clearly no Detroit.

Germany has been criticized by many Americans for not doing more to stimulate its **economy**, and its policies are far from perfect. Its penchant for regulation can hobble growth in good times. Even with state subsidies, the jobless rate may increase this year if Germany's gross domestic product drops 4 percent to 5 percent, as some economists have predicted.

If that is the worst case, Stuttgart will remain an industrial oasis compared with Detroit, arguing for what officials in Washington can learn from lawmakers in Berlin.

The global recession has punished German automakers, including Daimler AG. First-quarter sales for Daimler's Mercedes-Benz unit fell 25 percent from a year earlier. Sales at the Audi unit of Volkswagen AG, based in Wolfsburg, declined 16 percent in the first three months, while Munich-based Bayerische Motoren Werke AG's sales dropped 21 percent. Daimler has predicted a loss for the first quarter, and the tallest building on Mercedesstrasse in Daimler's headquarters complex stands empty, "too expensive" to tear down, a spokesman says.

Chrysler Deal

Germany's automakers show little evidence they are smarter than the corporate titans at General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC that Team Obama is bailing out with multibillion-dollar subsidies. Let's not forget it was Daimler-Benz that bought Chrysler for \$36 billion in 1998 only to sell 80.1 percent of It to Cerberus Capital Management LP nine years later for \$7.4 billion. Last year, Daimler reduced the value of its 19.9 percent equity stake to zero.

Daimler's share price is about 76 percent lower than it was at the time of the 1998 acquisition, making it one of the worst deals in German business history, rightly compared with Time Warner Inc.'s combination with America Online Inc.

When talking among friends, Stuttgart's and Detroit's chuckleheads also show the same stubborn resistance to hybrids, batteries and other short-term alternatives to or variations of the internal combustion engine.

Instead, it is increasingly clear that German state corporatism, the bane of right-thinking Anglo-Saxon capitalists, deserves much credit for the relative comfort of Stuttgart's citizens, as well as those throughout most of Germany. State corporatism is different from state planning. It eschews nationalization of industries or government-mandated five-year plans for them.

Constructive Partnership

State subsidies, a plethora of regulations, are hallmarks of the German way, where industry and labor have been forced into a constructive partnership that each side often finds distasteful. It is the

government's strong role in regulating commerce that has saved the German auto industry from itself. Muted capitalism is alive and relatively well.

For years, Americans criticized Germany and the rest of "Old Europe" for their tax policies and addiction to government subsidies, which now look mild compared with the federal bailout of Detroit. German unemployment, at 8.1 percent, while roughly **equal to that in the U.S.**, is actually lower than it was in many earlier years. An elaborate system of pensions, social security and national health care keeps a higher proportion of the costs for retired, unemployed and sick workers off the books of German automakers than is the case in Detroit.

Jobs Saved

Germany has recently extended government subsidies so that companies can keep workers on payrolfs for as long as 18 months — it used to be six months — even if layoffs might be easily justified. The government also has bolstered a subsidized "short-work" program. More than 670,000 workers were registered in March, 55 times the number enrolled in the program a year ago.

Consider the implications for Daimler. Although the company threatened a first round of job cuts at its annual meeting last week, management can't carry it out before the end of 2011 because of a labor agreement. Instead, about half the company's 140,000 German workers agreed to shorter work weeks and the rest may be subject to pay cuts of 14 percent, **Guenther Fleig**, Daimler's management-board member for human resources, said recently. An additional 280 million euros (\$370 million) might be saved by delaying profit-sharing payouts.

Merkel's Car Laws

The government also intervenes in the marketplace in ways that help the environment, foster innovation and influence the design and sale of cars. Most recently, Chancellor **Angela Merkel**'s coalition government agreed to triple funds available for payments to buyers of new low-emission vehicles who scrap their old cars.

Under the plan, drivers can claim a 2,500 euro subsidy when trading in a car that is at least nine years old, provided the new car meets stringent anti-pollution standards. The government says it expects 2 million purchasers to apply for subsidies, costing it 5 billion euros this year.

Since the program provides a flat subsidy regardless of the new car's price, it favors makers of smaller, cheaper vehicles, many of them imports, at the expense of BMW, Audi and Mercedes. But it does get cheaper, more fuel-efficient cars on the road.

If the laws overseeing auto manufacturing in the U.S. seem burdensome, they are minor compared with those governing German automakers, who are on the hook even when their cars are scrapped. Germany's "End-of-Life Vehicle Act" requires auto manufacturers and importers to collect worn-out cars and to make sure that stringent recycling targets are met. These recycling requirements influence the DNA of car design, affecting decisions as fundamental as what materials to use and how parts are installed and removed.

Low Emissions

Germany's taxes on gasoline also influence consumer behavior and automotive design. A gallon of premium-grade gasoline costs \$6.24 in Germany, **compared** with \$2.26 in the U.S. The higher price, reflecting higher taxes, is one of the reasons BMW's new top-of-the-line 7 series sedan has some of the highest fuel and lowest emission ratings in its class.

Compared with Detroit, Germany's automakers are well- capitalized. Daimler CEO **Dieter Zetsche** told the annual shareholder meeting last week that the company's funding is "secure" partly because it recently received a 2 billion-euro investment from Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund in return for 9.1 percent of its stock. BMW says it will remain independent and doesn't need global alliances to survive.

Germany's carmakers have a long way to go before they take the road to Detroit.

(Norman Pearlstine is Bloomberg LP's chief content officer and he is president of the American

Academy in Berlin. The opinions expressed are his own.)

To contact the writer of this column: Norman Pearlstine in New York at npearlstine@bloomberg.net

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creation & sleight of hand manipulation of debt - if the majority of people would not then be better off. This seems to stem from the manipulation (& creation) of money & how it is used - & that control should be in the hands of the people, not the few select. Unfortunately, the power & influence over the political system appears to be in the hands of the few - amongst them the financial elite, so grass roots action (if you are intere

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Doesn't this whole issue hinge around the fact that wages in general and in all industries have not kept pace with inflation, torcing the development of a debt based economy? It seems that we are not seeing the forest for the trees right now!

Transcript

GM Headquarten Detroit, Michigan

PAUL JAY, SENIOR EDITOR, TRINN: As General Motors goes, so goes the nation. That's what used to be said about American manufacturing while some people are saying the current Obama pian is trying to breather life into a dying corpse. If so, what does it mean for the future of American manufacturing? And is there a way to breathe new life into a whole new vision for American auto and American manufacturing? President Obama said he'll not see the US auto industry go down on his watch, but he laid out his governments tough response to the recent proposals from General Motors and Chrysler, who are applying for further government loans to keep them out of imminent bankruptcy.

BARACK OBAMA, US PRESIDENT: Each company has submitted a plan to restructure. But after careful analysis, we've determined that neither goes far enough to warrant the substantial new investments that these companies are requesting. And so today i'm announcing that my administration will offer GM and Chrysler a limited additional period of time to work with creditors unions and other stakeholders to fundamentally restructure in a way that would justify an investment of additional taxpayer dollars.

JAY: The White House rejection makes equal targets of both the workers and management, suggesting that workers must concede on more of their benefits, while chastising management for unrealistic business torecasts and a lack of vision for a competitive product. This brought about what amounts to a firing by the White House of General Motors CEO Rick Wagener, immediately replaced by his hand-picked successor, chief financial officer Fritz Henderson. Despite this, the US media has identified the workers as the central obstacle to competitiveness. Take the line of questioning from NBC's David Gregory during his Sunday morning interview with GM's new CEO, who's asking for \$16 billion in government loans to add to the \$13 billion received in December.

DAVID GREGORY, HOST, NBC'S MEET THE PRESS; Well, let's talk about how you can do more. How many union jobs are there in a typical factory for General Motors that have nothing to do with producing an automobile?

FRITZ HENDERSON, CEO, GENERAL MOTORS: Well, actually, every job we have a factory has something to do with producing an automobile.

GREGORY: In some factories, you have a shop steward who's responsible for appointing—whether it's a civil rights chief foreign education person, these are all union jobs that don't have anything to do with producing the car. You have told health-care managers and executives over 65 that they no longer get health-care benefits; they have to revert at that point to Medicare, is it time for union workers to accept that same limit?

HENDERSON: David, but provision of health-care to our hourly employees will basically vest to the responsibility of a VEBA trust, effective January 31, 2010. The VEBA trust will be responsible for determining the level of benefits, and I can't really forecast, if you will, what decisions they are going to make.

GREGORY: But do you think that's the kind of cut that the union should have to accept?

HENDERSON, Not for me to say, David.

GREGORY: Do you really expect this president, given how strongly supported the years by the unions, do you really expect him to take a step that would hurt the unions? What is the message to the union now? Doesn't it have to be "Those days are over"?

JAY. To tell us what they think of President Obama's plans, we're now joined by Tiltany Ten Eyck, who writes for Labor Notes based in Detroit, and Frank Hammer, who used to be president of a transmission local for General Motors in Detroit, Thanks for joining us.

TIFFANY TEN EYCK, LABOR NOTES, DETROIT: Thank you.

FRANK HAMMER, FMR PRESIDENT OF UAW what would is LOCAL 909 GM. Good evening.

JAY: So, Tiffany, what is your take on Obama's plan? And what do you make of the argument that people watching this are going to say? Autoworkers have had it islatively good in terms of being—especially when compared to unorganized workers. So why shouldn't auto workers make these kinds of concessions if that's what it takes for these places to survive?

TEN EYCK: There's a real myth right now that autoworkers make a tremendous amount of money, that there's a greedy autoworker. We've been hearing in the media that autoworkers make something like \$70 an hour. And these statistics are completely inflated.

JAY So what's the facts?

TIFFANY: Right now, an entry-level autoworker, because of concessions, comes in and makes \$14 an hour. That's not the kind of money that you need to make it on an assembly line of work right now. You have autoworkers who might be making \$50,000 a year who right now are being told by the general public and by the media that they're greedy for making a middle-class wage.

HAMMER: The 10 percent of the expense of a car is what's attributed to labor costs at the max. So the klea that autoworkers are the cause of the company's problems, I think, has been one of the most major forms of misinformation that has gone out to the public, that it somehow seems that autoworkers are too expensive. On the contrary, it's by virtue of the fact that we made the wages of an autoworker at \$28 an hour that has enabled us to buy the vehicles that we make. The autoworker that works at the Mexican GM plant cannot afford to buy their car

JAY: Now they're saying that the auto industry in Detroit has to be competitive with the auto industry in the southern United States or non-unionized plants.

HAMMER: Okay

JAY So what is the case [inaudible]?

HAMMER: Well, one of the things that makes GM less competitive than Toyota is that Toyota are relatively new plants. Toyota, Nissan, Mercedes, they're all within the last 10, 15 years. They have no retirees to speak of, so they don't have the so-called legacy costs, whereas General Motors is a company that's been around 100 years—of course it has costs. Toyota and all the other companies don't have those problems as of yet, but they will in a matter of time.

JAY; One of the big pieces of his proposal is that somehow he wants the auto industry to get rid of what they're calling the "legacy debt."

JAY: Or Canada, for that matter

HAMMER: But what happened is that even though they agreed to do that, they walked away from that agreement, both parties walked away from that agreement, and instead agreed to shift the burden from General Motors onto the UAW in the form of this independent rust. And even though the president, Gettelfinger, promised when they did this that it would be good for 80 years, here we are 18 months later and the thing is in the trashcan and nobody's making any effort to make a guarantee how long this will serve the retirees and their health-care needs.

RONALD GETTELFINGER, CHIEF PRESIDENT, UAW: Now, what we did in '05 and '07, we reduce the company's liability by 50 percent when we put those VESAs in place then. So now to take that and reduce it even further by accepting stock, which is passing risk on to us, was a major move on our part, and we believe it was the right thing to do.

JAY: The the so-called voluntary employees beneficiary association (or VEBA) plan saw the union take on retiree healthcare benefits in return for \$40 billion cash from the companies. In February, the UAVV agreed to accept 50 percent of Ford's debt to them in the form of company stock. This promise of health care for retirees then, is that under threat, do you think, in these Obama proposals?

HAMMER: Absolutely. The funding of it is being threatened, because if half the retriee health-care costs are going to be based on how well the stock is doing for General Motors or for Ford or for Chrysler, well, that's just gambling on health care, and that's what that's doing.

TIFFANY: Particularly when we talk about bankruptcy. Bankruptcy is constantly on the table in this debate, and bankruptcy is the quickest way for a company to get rid of all of its obligations to workers, which would mean an already underfunded plan covering health care would be essentially gone at that point.

JAY: And bankruptcy is on the table, as was confirmed by GM's new CEO on Meet the Press on Sunday,

GETTELFINGER! Well, The administration basically said the same thing. It may very well be the best alternative. As I look at the situation, we need to accomplish a set of goals, and accomplishing those can't be compromised. So if it can't be done outside of a bankruptcy process, it will be done within it.

JAY: So what's at the root of the problem?

HAMMER: They have not made enough changes to anticipate the new economy and to anticipate the changes in energy, and so they've sort of been legging behind. While Toyota was marketing a Prius, General Motors was still insisting on trying to make money off of Hummers.

JAY Now, people say the unions went along with all this. There was very little from the unions opposing these kinds of strategies.

HAMMER: In my experience, the UAW has been, unfortunately, playing the role of enabler in an attempt to defend

auto companies into a more green direction for fear that this would be a calamity. Well, the calamity is what we're facing now.

JAY: At a time when the Obama administration is spending billions of dollars to create jobs, current auto industry restructuring plans will lay off thousands more workers, at a time when President Obama is calling for a bold vision of a new, green economy, many autoworkers say these restructuring plans will destroy much of the capacity to manufacture a new, green, North American transportation system. We'll explore that question in the next segment of "Motown Blues or Detroit Green".

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THE OWNER SIDE

Columbus will try and stop octopus-toting Wings fans

By ROB GLUER - DOLUMBEON DISPATUR COLUMNIST - APRIL 20, 2208

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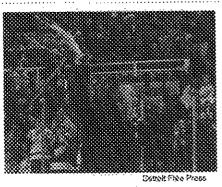
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authorities, who conduct bag searches and quick visuals under jerseys and around torsos for every 4/14/09 game and event. Inexperienced Blue Jackets franchise has experienced roster - 4/14/09 Could Mason already be in Wings' heads? - 4/14/09 Blue Jackets: statistics - 4/14/09 1 | 2 Next Page NHL ROUNDUP: Jackets' coach wants urgent play from team -- 4/14/09 In Your Voice READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY Hide Con ments A More Red Wings headlines Skilled Datsyuk not afraid to get physical, too (55) Newest first Columbus writer: Chris Osgood looks shaky (41) hockeytown101 wrote: Columbus hopes to feel the economic gains of a playoff Hey Dawgs_01(aka freep forum police officer) I'm an.....dare I say it......an OHIOANIIIII Am I allowed to post here....... Love the Red Wings but don't like college appearance :2: Will venue change help Blue Jackets? (2) sports.....PRETTY PLEASE C4/20/2009 12:56 12 sin ED Recommend New post Reply to this Post Report Abuse DetroitRiver wrote: Concert & Sports Tickets Many have tried and all have failed. The Cephloid Underground can not be stopped!!! Search By Artist or Event Name Gol GO WINGS!!! C4/20/2009 17:41 17 pm EDT Reply to this Post Report Abuse Recommend New post Most Popular Events Kid Rock Lynyrd Skynyrd AC/DC occwhittemore wrote: MichignNotmyHome why dont you quit making idiotic comments and stay off the Detroit Red Wings NHL Playoffs these posts obviously your a moron and do'nt have any Knowledge of hockey so we would appreciate it if you would like got lost . 04/20/2008 12:39.13 p.m EDT Columbus Blue Jackets NHL Conference Quarterfinals Reply to this Post Report Abuse Detroit Pistons Recommend New post m arketplaced@5.6 teom Teeshot wrote: a sarvice of Replying to Dawgs_01: MOST E-MAILED MOST POPULAR Teeshot I don't care if your a Wings fan. Your not welcome here. 1 Does Stafford complete you? Not at 61.4% 2. Tired of pundits, Chrysler workers want to tell their side 3. Don't expect Pistons to rebuild overnight Hey Dawg, I live here. Grand Rapids, to be exact. And I'm an Ohio State alumnus. 4. Anxiety over Chrysler's fate runs high GO SPARTANSIII 5 Porcello handles pressure, shines in first career win 04/20/2009 10:07 17 sim EDT 6. How will the Lions use their picks? Reply to this Post Report Abuse Recommend New post 7 Skilled Datsyuk not afraid to get physical, too Michigan football season-ticket sales are down, but by GeauxS8 wrote: Dawgs_01 - since when did you get to say who is and who isn't welcome. Aren't there how much? some diapers you need to buy from Walmart? 9 Columbus columnist: Osgood is Wings' weak link 10. Columbus writer. Chris Osgood looks shaky Reply to this Post Report Abuse Recommend(1) New post 123 >> Last Get Listed Here FULL PAGE VIEW See more comments per page and quote other replies ADS BY PULSE 360 Looking for faster internet? Click here to get High-Speed internet that's up to 2X as fast as DSL! You must be logged in to leave a comment. Login | Register www.TimeWarnerCable.com/SoCal Get Ready for Summer Diet Reviews! 50 diet products tested - Our winner lost 32 Lbs in 30 days! 30daysummerpowerdiets.com Exclusive: Colon Detox Cleanses Reviewed Scientific study of the top free cleansing products on the market. ColonReview.com 1000characters left INSIDE FREEP.COM

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GOVERTI-ATOR TO DETROIT: You'll Be Back!
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POSTED BY: Phil Lebeau i
cnbc.com | 20 Apr 2009 | 12:04 PM ET

When I was first asked to moderate a question and answer session with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, I Immediately thought, "What a delicious opportunity to talk to a man who has told Detroit to 'get off its butt' and start building the next generation of cars and trucks people want." A year or two ago, those comments made the Governor the object of scorn in Detroit. People in Motown would tell me, "How dare HE tell US what we should do!"

So a year later, when the Governor strolled on stage at the Society of Automotive Engineers World Congress he brought a similar, but changed opinion of

Does he still think Detroit needs to get its act together a develop fuel efficient next generation vehicles? Absolutely. When I asked him who is to blame for the current auto crises he told me, the blame falls on Washington for going decades without a clear, consistent energy policy and it also falls on the auto industry in Detroit

Governor Schwarzenegger says, "Detroit has been slow at the wheel, they have been askeep at the wheel and I think that while other car manufacturers from around the world have been progressive and have developed hydrogen cars and hybrid cars and all this, Detroit has been slow in doing that."

At first glance, you might think nothing's changed with the Govern-ator, but in some very important ways his opinion has changed.

Governor Schwarzenegger believes Detroit can come back from this current crises better and healthier. He told me, "I think that now is the chance to not look back, to look forward. It's a new chapter that begins now and I have great hope for next chapter."

Schwarzenegger believes Detroit can and will build the next generation of cars that Americans will want and that others are already developing. He would love to see California and Michigan partner in helping fledgling and established auto companies make the breakthroughs that will be needed in the years to come.

Think about it, California's Silicon Valley has the tech research labs for the chips and software the next generation engines will need while Detroit has the expertise in building cars and trucks people want. The possibilities are enormous.

In the eyes of the Governor, Detroit WILL be back!

Sure, it will be leaner and certainly greener, but that's fine. If the Big 3 can transform how cars and trucks are powered (electric, hydrogen, fuel cell, etc) and yet still make models that make us excited, then the future for Detroit is bright. As he told auto engineers, "There is one thing that is certain: They're gonna be back."

Check out:

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About the Author

Michael Merky is a new treckla production associant for NESPI. He great up its Arthypoti, Mass , outlors granuating from Roger Vitiliance University in Stieck, $R_{\rm c}^{\pm}$, with a degree in journalism. Finance pointing MESPI, we worked in the exone department of WATE STANDARD TV in Providence sind also noticed as a hardence sports

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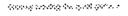
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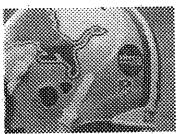
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April 20, 2009

The clock is ticking on a Motown turnaround

By Rev. Jim Holley

When I take a good look at the deplorable condition that this city currently finds itself in, the question that simply will not leave me alone is how in the world did we get here?

If you look 50 years ago Detroit was economically stable. Detroit was the city that built the cars that America – and the rest of the world – drove. Detroit was the city where a working man without a college degree could earn more than a respectable living, own his own home, and take care of his family. The lure of good wages for a good day's work is what drew so many of this city's black population 'Up North' for the chance at what promised to be a better life.

Of course we all know Detroit was less than ideal even 50 years ago, especially for black people. Detroit's racially violent and segregated past continues to haunt this city today, riding our back like some huge parasite. Despite the strength of the auto industry and the abundant opportunities for employment, none except the blind would have ever confused Detroit with the Promised Land.

But as tense as the racial situation was (it ultimately exploded into one of the worst riots this nation has ever seen) I am beginning to look back on that era as The Good Old Days.

I would argue that what Detroit is experiencing now is worse than anything this city has faced at any time during the past 100 years.

If we as black people thought life was so intolerable back then, when Detroit could still boast of more black homeowners than anywhere else in the nation, then how could it possibly be that we aren't beside ourselves with rage today when our schools are failing our children and our leaders are failing everybody?

Make no mistake; what Wall Street did to help send this country into a near-unprecedented economic downturn is no less despicable and unforgivable than what this city's elected leadership has done – and is doing – to Detroit.

Right now, today, the average life expectancy of a Detroit resident is 10 years shorter than a resident who lives on the other side of 8 Mile Road. Although some of our public schools are performing admirably, and some of our children still manage to accomplish great things despite obstacles no child should ever have to confront, the vast majority of Detroit's youth are being cheated each and every day by a school system that is completely and totally dysfunctional. We are experiencing more home foreclosures than almost any other major American city. We are the nation's poorest big city. And yet this is closing in on 42 years after the riot of 1967, 44 years since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and 45 years since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson.

How did we get here?

With more black professionals and more black elected officials than any other city in the nation, Detroit should be a model for Urban America by now.

Our window of opportunity to prove the naysayers wrong is growing smaller by the day.

The Rev. Jim Holley is the pastor of Little Rock Baptist Church in Detroit.

The Lions are apparently in negotiations with Qft Matt Stafford to make him the top pick in the 2009 NEL Deoft. According to two Poothall Talk and other modia outlets, Stafford has begun to tell teammates that he'll be suiting up in Motown in 2009...

The Thinking Behind the Lions Taking Matt Stafford for Number One



The Lious are apparently in negotiations with QB Matt Stafford to make him the top pick in the 2009 EEL Droft.

Amording to Pro Football Talk and other media outlets, Stafford has began to tell teammates that he'll be suiting up in Moteum in 2009.

A few weeks ago I came out and was against going this mute. I still am today. The ceason being was that the Lions have too many tokes to lift and can't afford to miss on their top pick—one which will receive \$40 million in guarantees—like they did on Q8 Jooy Harrington with the third pick in 2002.

And regardless of how much Mel Kiper pumps Stafford up and companies his physical attributes with John Elway, he's not a cas't miss pick like Elway was.

Can counter argument was to select Baylor UI, Jason Brown. The converted TE has a huge upoide and will probably man that position for the next decade. And the most important position on offense besides the QB is the gay assigned to keep him off his back, so the move makes sense.

This is what Miami did by selecting LT Jake Long last year, although in retrospect, they'd probably select Oil Wait Ryan if they could do it over again.

But since they appear intent on making Stafford the pick, let's look at some of the reasons why they'd go this cours

First, if you list on the top pick and land a franchise QO. It's well worth it. It's the most important position on the field and is usually the player that suparates the rold-fier teams from the top-tier learns, everything also being equal

Second, coming off an 0-16 season, Detroit is in a rebuilding process: the entire city, outcidealers, etc. So they'll be given the time to see this out and that is essential when you're bringing along a QB.

Third, have you seen WK Calvo Johnson? The guy is a beast and will help speed up any rookie's learning curve in the NFL. He'll command double teams from here on cot and this will open passing lance for

Stafford to find second and third options.

Fourth, with the No. 20 pick that they <u>received from Dallas for WR Roy Williams</u>, which is looking like an absolute heist in hindsight, they'll probably use it on one of the falling lineman and grab Mississippi's Michael Oher to add to the line.

And this appears to have been their goal all along: grab a QB, solidify the line and then shift their focus to the defense.

So if they go this route, things on paper will begin to look a lot brighter in Motown offensively. With RB Kevin Smith, WR Calvin Johnson, an offensive line getting younger and a potential franchise QB in the fold, the pieces are beginning to fall in place to turn the Lions into a competitive organization in two or three years.

And then the rest of the draft they can focus on the defensive side of the ball as they look to get that mess fixed.

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Automotive News

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A mutant Honda 305 in Motown

April 21, 2003 - 4,19 pm ET



Got a Honda memory? As American Honda Motor Co. marks 50 years of U.S. operations, we're looking for people to share their memories of Honda. A first Honda, riding in a friend's, selling or servicing Hondas. Honda ads, whatever sticks in the memory.

links to share them.

If you have something to share - a memory, a picture or a video - just follow these

Honda: 50 years in the U.S. market Upload your photos Share your video Tell us your story

My most vivid Honda memory came in 1988, when I bought a used Honda 305 motorcycle from a friend.

He had converted it into a clift bike, ,which is a polite way of saying it came with knobby tires, manly scare, two southed. Bell helmets and a huge cardboard box of fenders, headighte, taillights, aprockets and odd bits that had been sheared off

My friend had replaced the original 31-moth rear sprocket with a 62-tooth version to broost acceleration on dirt courses, i remounted the headlight and tallight. But with the first full-throttle blast, I knew that stock sprocket was staying in the tox.

True, my top end was only about 55 mph. But the "rooket aprocket" made my 305 as hot off the line as biggerdisplacement Trumphs and Nortons. When you're 18 and live near the famed Woodward strip during Detroit's muscle-car heyday, that's worth comeding.

And with a summer job stamping auto parts on the afternoon shift, daylight was time to ride. On the straight one-mile grid roads north of town, passing care was one fluid motion, downshift, full-throffie, lean left, upshift, lean light, straighten and ease off

Hoved that tike.

The rest of Distroit didn't share the love.

My girtriend was reluciont to ride. Her parents insisted she didn't. My morn told and reford the story of Uncle Dave: the Harley, the gravel and the body cast. Detroit drivers talligate. And then it showed.

By apring, I opted for a year-mund vehicle that gris would ride in. And the 305 - and its box of parts -- went to a new teenager.

That's my Honda memory. What's your's?

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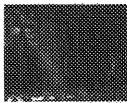
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LeBron, the Most Hated Man in Motown - Detroit vs. Cleveland

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Congratutations, Lettron, V there's one man you can physicist for rearing down the attempted dynasty or Detroit, it's teffont. Dation had to bis retuitions explosion in Game 5 of the 2007 NSA Playoffs, all the way on to his 36 point blow-up against theoret in Come 1 of the 2009 MSA Ployatio, there is no one single person that the Debuilt festes more sight now than LeBros.

LaRara has averaged 25.8 points per game that season against Detroit, and the Pistons don't look like they're even gaing to by stat stop time. I was relying on Ranhood bosineing back in to a "screwithin, I've taking over" mode. But also it didn't happen. After so many years of serving the Pistons become the team to beet when playing at before, the ran is must definitely over. Trust one, I want the last one to cliny to hope, and even Em giring op figit film.

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Cleveland is 17-4.50 in dies last 18 gennes at honor

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What mukes multers were a for Detroit is Kaylo Garnet's Injury. Hose, southy? With Boston anable to produce a defender to help Paul Pierce that down Lablace. The Cave are nuraway favoriges to yells the Eastern Conference. Sentously, who is going to stand in their visy? Andre "gountals? (Wight Howard) Demick Rose? Please.

And valide that adopt listed listed for the idea Blok Cleveland goes in to cross control, I evolute's sleep on this terror's propersity to bloss feares and of the pester. Cleveland his cleared a 48.9 point differential this season, and turve destroyed Daltok every chance they're gother.

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Motown letdown

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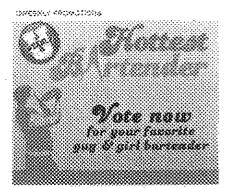
There exert tou many bigger thints as a sports specially than observing on the home learn with thousands of your newfound closest francis. We have it great in Ohio; fearns of both the college and professional level have fan support that sometimes assems mare possionals than the obtates on the field. That being said, sentedness it is great to follow your team on the road and be part of the smaller crowd. The crowd that dent't be heard over the home team's fans. - Unless its OSU football on the road against footballent, then figure Field just behaviors. Howeverno North.

The had a few great opportunities to the a port of the passionate mirrority at sporting events and it's fascinating to see how other people nelebrate their fascris wind and losses. Once I red the privilege of meeting rewry fine, up-standing Canadians who were happy to see me, and thy American dollers, in their bity at a Tomorto FC - Crew game test seeson. Not to be questioned on their horifgorism, other tans threw beer on the, and held the personally respondible for the success and failures of the Busic administration, global weeting generalists in Cartur, manatee starghter, and most other horidating potitical insides of the day.

White chanting "Your bacon is ready hard" (the Orese heard" given any decent folder for heating at theil point in the general the Tonnic behind, a man burner around to the end seed, "Oude, their Billish." Along was reaming I was reaponable for our world in port, I also found our everything I ever know about meats that we associate with other nations was false so well

Last viscosand, I had attather apportunity to go rate hostilla isometry. Following the Situa Jackets to Detroit for the first round of the Stanley Cup playeds. We were ready for whatever. Motoroin had in store for us it was hisekets of my Youngstown jukes to be more supplied to hashed the learn store for a Keylar vest with the Situa logo on it - it to last thing my ded sale to me before I left was a reminister about the city's murder rate. This is the Jackets first trip to the playeds - and if was on.

Charoli bits itself as "Flockleytown," and since they had spanked the Jackets earlier that week in Gerna Cirie. I was ready to receive some Gradie A cirieds talk." Those are supposed to be localised passionate fairs, who show trockey, and know



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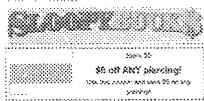
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how in stopely me with their with mosts, instead, I received what I would expect on a middle-school playground.

Here is a selected polynomic of some of Hookeylowife finest greatings...

"Continues, Otio is the erors oily in the world." Upon quick study, I acon learnest that Money Magazine has realized up one of the Top Ten cities to live in. Organic Gastening magazine-also gave us a frumba up. The form it live Lewis Spena must have missed that adition.

1975 south is that direction 1 That why are you politing at Canada, our neighbor to the redai?

Thirde jarsey ten-weather fan I did you buy that taday?" No 1 olden, that's why the a half-size too amoit land you bloady must have mijosed the neon green insect on the cide; we sent Glinger this semi-rotrement a few years ago.

Upon the electric of Solombus power-plays: "Ouds the fite playoffs, the refs are letting them play" Please explain how the refs form them play" when they send the Jackete to the sin fifth 11 times.

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Sports

Rollin' to Motown: Cavs take 2-0 lead in series

Cavs withstand rally by Pistons, who can't answer James

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

By Bob Finnan

RFinnan@News-Herald.com

Michael Curry made every adjustment known to man.

In the end, though, nothing the Pistons coach attempted could slow down LeBron James.

James once again controlled the tempo and was almost impossible to defend, as the Cavaliers stormed to a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series with a 94-82 win over the Pistons.

Game 3 is 7 p.m. Friday at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Curry, the Pistons' first-year coach, tried double-teaming James. He tried playing zone. He tried getting the ball out of his hands and keeping him out of the lane. He tried everything but throw the kitchen sink at him.

None of his tactics came close to working.

"They tried to keep me out of the paint," James said. "I'm not a volume shooter. I don't need to take a lot of shots to get the job done on the court."

It's do-or-die time for the Pistons. If they succumb to the Cavs in Game 3, the latter might break out the brooms.

James said the Cavs have an idea of what to expect on Friday.

"We know Detroit has one of the most hostile arenas in the league," he said. "We haven't faced adversity yet in this series. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Pistons guard Richard Hamilton said his team is keeping positive.

"They did what they were supposed to do," he said. "Now it's our turn to protect our home court. This isn't anything new.

"We have to be more consistent. We had some lapses on defense, I think we'll be better next game."

James ended with a game-high 29 points, 13 rebounds and six assists.

He was 7 of 13 from the field and 13 of 17 from the foul line.

"They came at LeBron," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "They were coming aggressively on the pass. Our guys did a good job of responding. Mo (Williams) and Delonte (West) knocked down shots and made them pay. Others guys have to step up, especially on the backside.

"(James is) an unbelievable player."

James led a quartet of double-figure scorers. Williams fired in 21 points and dished out seven assists.

The Pistons, who have lost six playoff games in a row to the Cavs, struggled to execute their offense. They shot 39.5 percent from the field. Guard Rodney Stuckey was just 5 of 15 from the field en route to 14 points and six assists.

Hamilton had a team-high 17 points for the Pistons.

The Cavs also thumped them on the boards, 43-34.

On the down side, the Cavs watched a 29-point lead early in the fourth quarter evaporate. The Pistons ambushed the Cavs with a 21-2 run to cut their deficit to seven points, 84-77, with less than four minutes to play.

Brown was forced to put his starters back into the game.

The Cavs got just 10 points off the bench. They shot 1 of 11 from the field, 0 of 4 in the second half.

"Our guys played a great three quarters of basketball," Brown said. "In the fourth quarter, their second unit did a great job. They got up into us, and we didn't respond well. We had to go back to our starters."

The Cavs had a huge advantage at the foul line, and it came in handy down the stretch.

The Cavs were 32 of 43 from the foul line, compared to 13 of 16 for the Pistons.

"That's a great thing we're doing in this series: Going to the line and making our free throws." James said. "We have to continue to be aggressive."

West ended with 20 points and four assists, and center Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 12 points and five rebounds.

Pistons forward Amir Johnson finally showed up in the series, but not in a good way. He committed a personal foul and was slapped with a technical foul with 5:35 left in the first half.

Johnson tried to wrap up James on a drive to the basket, but got a little too exuberant.

Cavs forward Anderson Varejao expressed his dissatisfaction with Johnson, who pushed him in the chest and was earned a technical from official Derrick Collins.

James made all three free throws for a 37-23 advantage.

Things got a bit snippy between Darnell Jackson and Kwame Brown after the first half ended — both going nose-to-nose and drawing technical fouls from official Dick Bavetta.

Read Bob Finnan's postgame analysis on his blog at:

www.News-Herald.com/blogs

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Why Can't Detroit Cash In On Its Music Scene?

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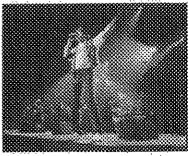


Click here to view a photo gallery of great Detroit musicians.

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"We haven" cultivated our music culture or our telent to create the industry around it except through Motown. We haven't harvested, we haven't nurtured it, and we have literally neglected it."

Grugory Paed, Osirok Erderteinmerå Commission



AP/The Post and Courier/Mic Smith

Bob Seger opens his first four in nearly nine years Jan. 19, 1990, with his Silver Bullet Band at the North Charleston Colliseum in North Charleston, S. C. Morning Edition, April 23, 2009 - For many, the Detroit music scene can be summed up in a single word. But white Motown, the legendary label founded by Berry Gordy, did bring the world The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, The Four Tops and The Jackson 5, it is only part of the Detroit story. Popular music made by people with Detroit connections includes something for just about any taste.

Take the sound of John Lee Hooker, who worked at a Ford plant well before the Motown sound came around. Detroit has also been home to great jazz, folk, country, hip-hop and rap artists.

And don't forget the non-Motown soul singers. First and foremost, a woman named Aretha, who started out singing in her father's Detroit church.

Mitch Ryder fronting a band called the Detroit Wheels; big arens rock icons like Bob Seger, a performer whose stage name is Alice Cooper — Detroit's music scene has always been as much about breaking ground as making hits.

The city was a breading ground for some of the icons of hard rock and punk. There was the MC5. And a guy named James Osterberg — you may know him better as Iggy Pop.

As each decade has passed, another crop of artists with Detroit ties has risen to the top of the charts. Madonna grew up in the Detroit suburbs, Then there's that white repper from just north of 8 Mile Road.

These days, one of the most highly regarded bands in rock is another product from Detroit, The White Stopes. And there's an entire genre of music sprung from Detroit dubs in the late '80s that still has a global

following --- techno.

So you might assume the music business is a big element in Detroit's economy, just as it is in other cities that have made an industry out of their local music scene. Memphis has Beale Street. In Austin, it's Sixth Street. In New Orleans and Nashville, it's just about everywhere.

All of these cities have made their music scene a major tourist draw. And not just for the big festivals, but week in and week out at clubs and small theaters. People gravitate to these places as destinations to hear great live music.

But that hasn't happened for Detroit, despite the decades of immensely popular music associated with the city.

W. Kim Heron is the editor of the alternative weekly newspaper *The Metro Times*. A veteran Detroit journalist and music writer, Heron says Detroit did once have such a district. But it got buried, literally, a half-century ago when they built the freeways that intersect this automobile capitol. "Our Beale Street is somewhere under I-75," Heron says.

One member of the Detroit City Council says Detroit needs to do more to promote its musical legacy. Her name is Martha Reeves. And yes, she is that Martha Reeves from Martha and the Vandellas.

"I've gone to other cities and seen statues and plaques depicting the wonderful, great artists that were created and discovered in the different hometowns," Reeves says. "And since Motown left Detroit in the '70s, there has been very little memorabilia."

There is a Motown Museum in Detroit. It's the original Hitsville USA studio in the little house on West Grand Boulevard. But Motown Records has been gone now for decades, ever since Gordy moved to Los Angeles and expanded into the movie business.

Detroit lawyer Gregory Reed is convinced that Detroit can still turn its music scene into a tourist destination. "We haven't cultivated our music culture or our talent to create the industry around it except through Motown," he says. "We haven't harvested, we haven't nurtured it, and we have literally neglected it."

Reed has been named head of a newly created Detroit Entertainment Commission. He says businesses need to see that there is money to be made. "You've got to plug in the business side," he says. "Because other than that, the talent will leave the city, and it's just a cycle."

Reed says the commission's goal is to focus on entrepreneurs with private funds who realize music is a valuable resource that the city hasn't fully tapped.

But even without a physical place to point to as the home to Detroit's music scene, the city continues to cultivate talent that it exports to the country and the world.

Mary Ramirez, who plays guitar for the Detroit Cobras, says Detroit offers a lot of inspiration to its musicians and something else even more basic. "Since the rent is cheaper and you can get like five people in a big house, people don't spend a lot of time working," Ramirez says. "There's a lot of people available to play with you."

Rachel Nagy, the band's lead singer, agrees. "It's not like New York, [where] you have to have three jobs just to pay your damn rent," she says.

But can Detroit regain its mystique and become a music Mecca again? Nagy has her doubts.

"They've been promising, oh, the rebirth of Detroit since I was a kid," she says. "And it's never happened, and I am sorry, I don't really have faith. Especially now with the economy. Now's not the time for that to happen, either, because people are really hedging their bets."

But that's not all bad, Nagy says. "That environment is also a reason why this kind of music thrives — because we can do whatever we want; we can play as loud as we want."

Nagy, Ramirez and the rest of the Detroit Cobras tour regularly. But Detroit is always the place they come to regroup and recharge. The city still offers a connection to their roots and a sense of community.

What Detroit still lacks is the business model that would allow Motor City musicians to thrive and contribute to the city's economic survival as well.

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The Beat Report: Motown: Signed, sealed, delivered, it's yours

By: Kegan Zema

Posted: 4/23/09

So far, this column has mainly dealt with new music. But there are so many new artists in so many different genres these days that sometimes we forget to go back and listen to the music from a few generations ago. Well, the time has come for us to turn off the auto-tuned T-Pain R&B and get back to basics - straight outta Detroit, it's Motown, baby.

When people hear Motown, the first thing that comes to mind might be the movie about The Temptations that plays at 3 a.m. on VH1. Motown was much more than sharp suits and crazy hairdos in the '60s. It was a genre with music so full of heart and soul that it broke racial barriers and swept across the nation. Artists like The Temptations, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye all display a passion in their singing that cannot be imitated. Motown Records wasn't just a hit factory - it was an artistic breeding ground for music that affected generations of musicians.

When listening to songs like "Ain't Nothin' Like the Real Thing" by Marvin Gaye and Tammy Terrel, one can't help but be transported back to simpler times. Love was the most important thing and everybody seemed to have some.

The musical formula was simple yet effective. Some sparse instruments provided the harmonic structure while a simple drum beat and perhaps a jangley tambourine kept time. Over this simplicity is some of the most miraculous vocal work ever recorded. "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)" by The Temptations can bring even the most manly of men to tears, and "Do You Love Me?" by the Contours stands as one of the best dance songs just because of the rich harmonies and raw, lyrical emotion.

There is a reason why people make love to great R&B music. "Let's Get It On" by Marvin Gaye is the obvious staple. It is drenched with so much sensual passion you need a cold shower after listening to it just to go on with a normal day.

The king of Motown, however, is Stevie Wonder. This man's musical career far surpasses that of his fellow artists, and not by coincidence. He hasn't just evolved with changing musical times, he was at the forefront of the change. He embodies the classic Motown R&B attitude with songs like "Uptight (Everything's Alright)" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours," but his talents could never be contained by just one decade.

"Superstition," "Higher Ground," and "Boogie on Reggae Woman" are some of the funkiest jams of the '70s, with Wonder retaining his signature sound and breathtaking vocal work. In the '80s, his work transformed yet again. If nothing else is a testament to this man, let it be the fact that he not only survived the '80s with his superb music-making ability, but actually thrived. Sure he may have shared the stage with teen pop sensations the Jonas Brothers at the last Grammy Awards, but if that inspired even just one 13-year-old girl to discover his music, then it was all worth it.

In short, more fans and musicians need to take a step back and praise the legends. These artists made high-quality music that could appeal to an immensely widespread audience. This is something often missing from the music world today, with the space between "artistic music" and "popular music" growing ever larger. The music industry has evolved far beyond the days of record companies like Motown - it's enormous, allowing for an infinite number of musical niches so there's something for everyone out there. We can all take a lesson from these artists who so beautifully crafted music meant for the ears of so many.

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Posted by Daniel Howes (The Detroit News) on Frl, Apr 24, 2009 at 10:54 AM

Ford beats 1Q earnings estimates, delivering hope to Motown

Says something about the state of Detroit Auto when Ford Motor Co. can deliver a \$1.4 billion after-tax loss, burn \$3.7 billion in operating cash and get huzzans from Wall Street because it beat expectations in the first quarter. Near midday, Ford shares are up more than 15 percent on the day, trading around \$5.20.

Bottom line: This town and The Street are falling on good results like starving men on a ham sandwich. But there's more to it. With a bankruptcy of Chrysler LLC likely as early as next week and the prospect of one at General Motors Corp. 30 days or so later, there's a growing sense -- painful as it may be -- that only the Blue Oval could emerge intact from the Great Restructuring. Even that isn't certain.

Still, you gotta' love the focus issuing from the Glass House; it's a bracing change from the executive revolving door and flavor-of-the-month years of former CEOs Jacques Nasser and Bill Ford Jr., the executive chairman who deserves props for installing Alan Mulally as his successor. Of Alan, a Boeing Co. veteran, ultimately may not pull Ford out of this broader industry nose-dive -- because there are lots of things beyond the control of any CEO - but loday's Ford looks like a new company and is improving its chances with each passing quarter

It's leaner. It has fewer brands, and will have fewer still if it can find a cost-effective way to off-load Sweden's Volvo Cars. Its car lineup in the beliwether U.S. market arguably is stronger than anytime in decades -- and that's before the new Taurus or the European-based Fiesta have hit U.S. showrooms.

The state of today's Ford also stands as an indictment of its cross-town rivals, though Mulally & co. would never say as much in public. The bill of particulars boil down to this, new management matters, asking hard questions that reveal the self-destructive denial of Detroit Auto can yield results; winnowing brands frees capital, focuses marketing attention and executive time, directors who set clear objectives for a management team can get results. In Mulally's case, this new Ford is emerging with a tier of leadership beneath the CEO that comes from the old Ford.

Yes, this is still a work in progress, Yes, flat-lining auto sales into the fall or end of the year could force Ford to seek loans from the feds. But with each passing quarter that feels less likely, not more. And the evidence accrues that Ford does, indeed, have the better idea for what has long alled Motown -- a real business plan that's strong enough to demand accountability and flexible enough to respond to the real world. Imagine

Update: Ford closed Friday at \$5 per share, up 11.36 percent on the day.

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Daniel Howes' column runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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You can reach him at (313) 222-2106 or email him at dchowes@detnews.com

Daniel Howes is business columnist and associate business editor of The Detroit News, From 1999 to January 2003, he was based in Germany as The News' European correspondent and automotive columnist, reporting from more than 20 countries on three continents, Before heading to Europe, Howes was senior automotive writer and an investigative and projects reporter on the business desk. He came to Detroit in 1993 from The Roanoke Times in Virginia, where he covered business, politics and higher education.

More on Daniel Howes

On media: He is a regular contributor to the Paul W. Smith Show on NewsTalk 760-WJR in Detroit. He appears often on radio and television locally, in the United States and overseas.

On education: He holds a bachelor's degree in history from the College of Wooster in Ohio, and a master's in international affairs from Columbia

On awards: Winner of multiple International Wheel Awards for column writing; a four-time winner of Northwestern University's Medill award for general markets coverage; and a three-time finalist for the prestigious Gerald Loeb Awards, including an honorable mention for commentary in 2007.

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NPR: Detroit Fails to Capitalize on Music Scene



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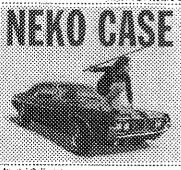
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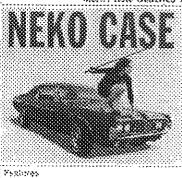


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The Toxicity Report: Detroit Lions' draft history

April 24, 2009

Dennis Dillon

There will be 256 players selected in the 2009 NFL draft, which <u>begins at 4 p.m. ET Saturday</u>. Too many of those picks will end up on teams that can best be described as poisoned by years of losing, poor leadership and rotten luck. As usual, the trouble starts at the top of the draft — with the 0-16 Detroit Lions.

UPDATE: The Lions signed <u>Georgia quarterback Matthew Stafford on Friday as the No. 1 pick in this year's draft. Albert Breer examines the deal.</u>

The Lions haven't always been atrocious. It just seems that way.

Your grandpa remembers when they won the 1957 NFL championship, and your big brother watched them go to the playoffs six times in the '90s. But lately ... well, let's just say the Lions have been more beastly than kings of the beasts.

Since 2001, they have gone through three head coaches (not including interim coach Dick Jauron in '05), committed numerous gaffes in the draft and compiled an NFL-worst 31-97 record. In 2008, their 75th NFL season, they became the first team to go 0-16. What a way to commemorate a diamond anniversary.

"Never in my wildest imagination did I think there'd just continue to be a downward spiral," says Robert Porcher, who played defensive end for the Lions from 1992 to 2004.

What has gone wrong? Where is the root of the problem? Who deserves the blame for this free fall into futility?

'09 NFL Draft (April 25-26)

Florio: Trades, drama and risk embody draft

Iyer: Champs build through draft

Team-by-team needs:

AFC: East | North | South | West

NFC reports: East | North | South | West Mock drafts: Scouts | Correspondents "When you struggle like we have, it's got to be a combination of different things," says kicker Jason Hanson, who has seen it all during his 17 seasons in Detroit. "It can't be just one thing because you'd think in eight years somebody would have figured that one thing out."

Breer: Risk assessment of elite prospects
On the move: 10 teams looking to deal
Trader Joes: 5 busiest GMs on draft day

Lande's best: T | ILB | OLB | DE Super 99: Rankings by position

Reports: J. Smith | Maualuga | E. Brown C. Wells | M. Sanchez | M. Crabtree

War Room: SN's complete draft coverage Cosell: Stafford translates best to NFL

refreshing move.

It *isn't* just one thing. A handful of factors working in toxic combination have contaminated the Lions.

1. Bad leadership

Conventional wisdom points the finger at Matt Millen. When the team made the former NFL linebacker and TV analyst its president and CEO in 2001, some observers considered it a bold but

"There was some excitement over some fresh thinking and a new direction," Jason Hanson says. "And that was at a time when the team was not terrible." The Lions had been in playoff contention until the closing seconds of their final regular-season game in 2000. They had qualified for the postseason in '91, '93, '94, '95, '97 and '99 but were one-and-done in five of those years. Millen was expected to help lift them to the next level.

It never happened. He showed little patience with the coaches he hired, made some terrible draft picks and failed to fortify the roster in free agency.

"He just couldn't get it done, for one reason or another," says 49ers running backs coach Tom Rathman, who was a Lions assistant coach from 2003-05. "Whether it be putting together a team through the draft, through free agency, bringing in the right coaches -- he didn't get it done."

"Hiring Matt Millen was just an awful mistake," says agent Jack Mills, who represents Hanson.
"Somebody got infatuated with Matt Millen because they gave him the moon for no good reason that I could see."

The Lions' ownership — owner William Clay Ford and vice chairman William Clay Ford Jr. — is also culpable for not being more proactive. The Fords, who were not available for this story, allowed the team to unravel under Millen for too long before dismissing him last September.

Millen, who declined to be interviewed, admitted on NBC during the playoffs that he would have fired himself.

2. Mistakes in the War Room

No team has had more top-tier draft busts this decade than the Lions. Joey Harrington ... Charles Rogers ... Teddy Lehman ... Mike Williams ... Boss Bailey ... Kalimba Edwards ... Kevin Jones. Each of those players was a first- or second-round pick who failed to develop in Detroit and is now on another roster or out of the NFL.

It wasn't just the environment that precluded these players from flourishing. Brian Baldinger believes they would have struggled with any NFL team.

"I think they all had flaws," says Baldinger, a FOX analyst and Sporting News contributor. "I know Detroit losing and changing coaches didn't help the culture, but I don't believe any of them would

have played like the top selections they were."

The Lions' most productive draft pick under Millen was Jeff Backus, who has started every game at left tackle since he was a first-round selection in 2001.

But that doesn't say much. Backus is not a premier lineman, and he has never been to a Pro Bowl.

"I can only speak about the three years that I was there," says Carl Mauck, Detroit's offensive line coach from 2001-03. "They worked hard at the draft, and everybody had some input. We just never really hit on what I would call a good skill player."

Detroit defied logic when it spent top 10 picks on wide receivers --Rogers, Roy Williams and Mike Williams -- in three straight drafts from 2003-05.

Injuries curtailed the career of Rogers, who played in only 15 games in three seasons before being cut. The Lions traded Roy Williams, who had a Pro Bowl season in 2006, to Dallas last year. Like Rogers, Mike Williams no longer is in the NFL.

"Taking those receivers the way we did didn't make a lot of sense," Robert Porcher says. "If those picks were made correctly, they should be the nucleus of the team right now. It's hard to make up for the lack of those bodies on the field."

3. Quarterback woes

If there is a poster boy for the Lions' poor drafts, it is Joey Harrington, the third overall pick in 2002. He arrived from Oregon with a big arm and big expectations. But in four seasons, Harrington passed for more than 3,000 yards only once, never completed more than 57 percent of his passes, had two fewer touchdown passes than interceptions (60-62) and went 18-37 as the starter.

His production was mediocre, but he came up short as a field general, too.

"How anybody could talk to Joey Harrington and think that guy is any kind of a leader -- in five minutes, you should know absolutely that guy has no leadership ability whatsoever," Baldinger says.

Tom Rathman calls Harrington a "capable player" but acknowledges there wasn't much chemistry when Harrington was the quarterback.

"I don't necessarily want to say it was Joey, but there wasn't the bond there from the team to the quarterback to the execution on the field," Rathman says. "The bottom line is we just didn't get the production."

But it wasn't just Harrington.

Quarterback has been a problem spot in Detroit for years. Even when the Lions went to all those playoffs in the '90s, they couldn't find a long-term answer.

Remember Chuck Long? Rusty Hilger? Erik Kramer? Rodney Peete? Charlie Batch? Scott Mitchell had a great season in 1995, when he threw for 4,338 yards and 32 touchdowns, but that was an anomaly.

"Our biggest issue is we just never got a quarterback," says Ron Hughes, who was the Lions' director of player personnel through most of the '90s. "We had some great weapons -- Barry Sanders, Herman Moore, Brett Perriman. We just couldn't get them a guy to chuck 'em the ball."

4. Lack of outside help

Before he was cut by the Panthers this offseason, cornerback Ken Lucas vetoed a trade to Detroit.

The Lions reportedly tried to woo former Bills guard Derrick Dockery twice -- in a trade and in free agency -- but he signed with the Redskins. For less money.

If the Lions can't attract midlevel free agents, don't they have a problem trying to get premier ones?

"Of course they do. Absolutely," agent Jack Mills says. "And now with Detroit being such a bad economic story, I don't think too many people are looking to want to move there and play in their sports programs."

Even the moves that have looked good on paper haven't worked out.

"I remember there were times when we brought in guys and you were like, 'Wow, that's going to be good because they're going to provide that leadership. They don't have any ties to the past scason or what's gone on before,' " Jason Hanson says. "For the most part none of them turned out to be impact players."

5. Outside elements

Sometimes, the Lions created problems unwittingly. When Matt Millen hired Marty Mornhinweg as his first coach in 2001, Mornhinweg, who had been the 49ers' offensive coordinator, brought in the West Coast offense, an abrupt change from what had been a power running game.

"I don't think the personnel fit what we were trying to do," Mauck says. "We just didn't have the personnel to do that well."

Millen's impatience with his head coaches also set the team back. He fired Mornhinweg after two seasons; replaced him with Steve Mariucci, who lasted less than three full seasons; and then brought in Rod Marinelli, who was ousted after the 2008 season -- following Millen out the door.

"You can't change coaches every two or three years and have any type of stability in your organization," says Ron Hughes, now the college scouting coordinator for the Steelers -- who have had only three head coaches in the past 40 years.

Now comes the Jim Schwartz era in Motown. The former Titans defensive coordinator is the latest man on the Lions' coaching hot seat. Curiously, the Lions elected to keep the status quo in the front office -- after firing Millen, they promoted former senior vice president/assistant GM Martin Mayhew to general manager and retained most of their college and pro personnel staff -- leaving skeptics to wonder whether things will really be different.

The new group will have its first chance to show things have changed when it makes the first overall selection in this year's draft.

"The good thing about the NFL is you don't have to wait that long to get another opportunity," Porcher says. "There's the draft, OTAs will start, and then they'll be back in training camp again. They'll have another opportunity to correct the wrong."

That's one thing the Lions have plenty of experience with.

Dennis Dillon is a writer for Sporting News. E-mail him at ddillon@sportingnews.com.

This story first appeared in the April 27 edition of Sporting News magazine. If you are not receiving the magazine, subscribe today, or pick up a copy, available at most Barnes & Noble, Borders and Hudson Retail outlets.

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William Greiner: Why GM and Chrysler will keep us mired in recession



(invision

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OM and Chrysler are obviously on the ropes. GM recently amorphical is plant to shot down the majority of his dismostre mental state one hardeness for the entire stronger. This will not have a positive targest for the averall economy.

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As the long bond economic slag continues, we support to see on economic furnishing occurring semestable but the year. We consider to believe the worst is probably bolder to, in that we don't expert the COP greenesty reports going forward. But we odd took a number of ball months to frost of us. Expect the arribase or garasso as to write alter ud in galliagh arrestition of

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Stafford ready to be the man in Motown

10:10 pm: It's finished.
Stafford will be the #1
overall pick in 2009. John
Clayton (ESPN.com) is
reporting that the Lions have
officially signed Stafford to
a six-year, \$78 million deal,
with \$41.7 million
guaranteed. Not too bad for
a player that's never played
a down in the league.

6:10 pm: Time to embrace your new quarterback of the future Detroit. Mati Stafford is coming to town.

According to Thomas George (NRL.com), a source within the organization has come forward to say that nothing's going to stop the Lions from taking Stafford #1 overall in tonorrow's draft. The two sides have been huddled up for some time now, hashing out contract parameters, and while the Lions have publicly stated they'll be happy to fall back on a verbal agreement they have in place with Aaron Curry, their Intent all along has been clear.

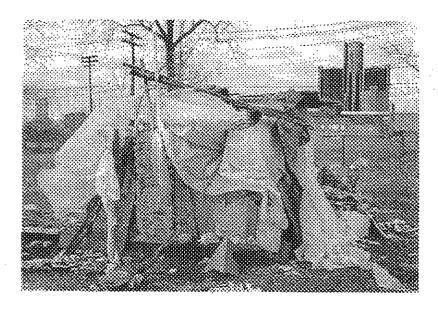
Stafford did his part for the media today, expressing excitement at the opportunity to play in Detroit:

"We've had some good talks, some good talks, some good visits and sessions, and to would feel very comfortable eithere and between I could become a part of the growing something special," Stafford said, "I wouldn't feel iost there at all?"

No deal has been finalized as of yet, but given the statements (both official and unofficial) from the team, it's doubtful that the Lions will be headed in a different

How Motown became Notown: Can Detroit climb out of the gutter?

By Anton Antonowicz 25/04/2009



At first giance she seems to be a madwoman, in bitter cold, broom in one hand, dustpan in the other, sweeping the pavement of trash from yet another burnt-out home.

And though Winetta Scott is not insene, she is mad. Med as hell. She lives beside the charred house, a place made derelict by the crack gange, scavengers and homeless who populate so much of this once-proud Motor City.

"I'm just tryin" to keep the place clean," the 55-year-old former school dinner-lady explains

"I've lived here for 40 years and I sin't movin'.

So, if I stay, I'm gonne do the best I can. "The politicians have abandoned us. The factories have left.

The cops turn their faces away. Yessir, it's for individuals to fend for themselves." It is a seemingly impossible task. Detroit is the ashtray of America. A place that slubs out hope.

Detroit the city which sparked the Tamle Motown sound with producer Elemy Gerdy's record label

Detroit whose car-making chiefs now go cap in hand for cash to Washington as bankruptcy

looms.

Detroit whose last Mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, has just finished a fourmonth sentence for perjury.

Detroit, the nation's murder capital, with over 10,000 unsolved killings dating back to 1960. The schools here have not ordered new textbooks in 19 years. And students often take their own toilet paper to school. Teachers carry hammers for defence. The flight of people - those who could - has forced 67 school closures since 2005.

The graduation rate is 24.9 per cent, the lowest of any school district in the US.

Detroit also has the highest property taxes in Michigan, yet has more than 70,000 empty dwellings.

The average house price has plunged to £5,000, though there are places selling for \$1 each.

So here it stands - the most murderous, poorest, segregated place in the US. One with the highest car-insurance rates, the highest unemployment, the place with the most heart attacks, slowest income growth and fewest sunny days. It is a city without a single national grocery chain. Detroit began rotting from the centre out.

World famous factories began closing in the 1950s. The Packard car plant, the Fisher factory, which built Cadillac bodies, moved away or shut and Michigan Central Station was abandoned.

Part of Detroit's troubles began when the car companies moved to the suburbs and were joined by a "white flight" of families that left the centre 85 per cent black and half of its former population.

Then there were the 1967 riots. The destruction of a mass transit system which marooned poor families in their neighbourhoods.

The political corruption and croneyism. The rise of Japanese cars. And Detroit is hooked on fires.

It has more than New York, a city nine times the size. Last year, its firefighters attended more than 90,000 blazes, double that of New York.

And nowhere is it worse than on the east side where Squad 3/Engine 23 firehouse is quartered.

The 1899 brick-built station is one of the few proud buildings still standing on East Grand Boulevard. Last year, the men here put out 1,431 fires, including 65 on Devil's Night - the evening before Halloween when arsonists compete in a city spree.

"It's a joke," says Bishop Corletta Vaughn at her Holy Ghost Cathedral, across the street. "The people in power play with words while the city burns."

Corletta, 54, is running for office as a councillor. "This place has been in trouble for so long, people don't know anything else." Her church building was once the Packard-showroom. The six million square foot plant a quarter-mile away is the USA's largest derelict site.

There are few windows left intact. Scavengers long ago stripped the buildings. Vikings, the city's name for bands of roaming vandals, have smashed and gouged whatever they could.

As I walk through the abandoned hulk, I find two men ripping out wooden floors. "We need the wood for keepin' warm," one says, "Wood's all that's left." And so it goes in tens of thousands of vacant sites that together constitute an area the size of San Francisco.

But though the dereliction is an emblem of Detroit's corrosion, for some it is a blank slate on which to chart a path to renewal. On Heidelberg Street, 54-year-old Tyree Guyton uses the trash from abandoned crackhouses to create a riot of street art.

Across town, Starlet Lee, 20, is hoeing wasteland where she grows fruit and veg for her five siblings. "Whatever is surplus, we sell. We get the local kids to come and help.

"There are opportunities here - there has to be," says ex cop Dick Rubens. "Now it's up to individual neighbourhoods to do what the politicians never have been able to accomplish. "You have those urban farms.

The art projects. It's a start to transform withered wasteland." It's a prayer for optimism. And America watches, waiting to see whether Detroit can find a way to rise from the ashes.

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NFL DRAFT: Reeves sees no renewal for Motown

By Terence Moore

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Saturday, April 25, 2009

They've golfed together enough to develop a strong bond. In fact, although Dan Reeves preferred that Matthew Stafford remain at Georgia for his senior season, the former Falcons coach keeps praising the maturity level and the gifted ways of the former Bulldogs quarterback along the way to this weekend's NFL draft.

"He's a great person," said Reeves, owner of a famously honest tongue.

Speaking of which, Reeves is correct to suggest that Stafford has lost his mind. He actually wants to play for the Detroit Lions, the worst pro football team of the past 50 years. The Lions are going to grant Stafford's wish by selecting him with the first pick in the whole draft.

So why is this brutal?

"It's hard to change Detroit," said Reeves, without the hint of a chuckle.

"You can change coaches. You can change owners. I mean, there's so little difference in winning and losing in the NFL, and one of the big things that teams that I've coached have had in Dallas, Denver, Atlanta — and even more so New York — is that people want to live there.

"Nobody wants to live in Detroit."

I laughed, but Reeves didn't, and the owner of the famously honest tongue added, "I'm serious. It's a fact that nobody wants to live there. I mean, there are so many things that go into it. The economy; the weather. What makes a good football team is their ability to work together in the offseason, and that's not going to happen in Detroit."

In contrast, much is happening in Atlanta with Reeves' old franchise that used NFL rookies at general manager, coach and quarterback last season to win 11 games after the Falcons managed only four during the previous season.

That GM, Thomas Dimitroff, was so efficient that 10 of his 11 picks made the roster and three became starters. He also acquired splendid running back Michael Turner, and Dimitroff's streak of enlightenment continues. He just

traded for star tight end Tony Gonzalez, which is enough to make Reeves' surgically repaired heart flutter with joy.

"I don't think you can pass up tight ends, because they're hard to find," said Reeves, 65, who expressed his tightend obsession often during his seven years with the Falcons that included a Super Bowl trip and the Miracle at Green Bay and lasted through the 2003 scason. "Reggie Kelly, Alge Crumpler [both tight ends on Reeves' Falcons]. They're kind of an offensive lineman and a receiver, and that's a tough combination.

"If I got back into coaching, I'd definitely have me a couple of good tight ends."

For now, Reeves just talks about tight ends as an NFL analyst on radio. He still lives in Atlanta, where he'll golf today before he returns home to see what the Falcons do with their 24th and 55th picks overall.

What should they do?

"I really haven't looked at film and studied guys [like I used to]," said Reeves, who deferred to Dimitroff's judgment. "Yeah, he has done a great job."

He's not in Detroit, for instance. Reeves didn't say that, but he could have.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

APRIL 27 2009 1140 PM ET

Motown or Gotham? GM, Chrysler Weighing the Pros and Cons



Where will GM and Chrysler go? In the long run, it's anybody's guess. But in the short term, the answer seems to be narrowing to two cities: Detroit and New York. According to an article in the NYT Monday, courtrooms in those cities appear to be the frontrunners to land the bankruptcy filings of both car companies — if they choose that route.

The stakes are high for both cities, but perhaps higher for the Motor City. The influx of lawyers, bankers, journalists and others spurred by a Detroit filing would likely give a badly needed boost to the Michigan economy. (According to a WSJ story on Monday, car dealers could be the next group to be running to the courthouse doors, bankruptcy filings in hand, once GM or Chrysler file.)

Once upon a time, large corporate debtors would file in jurisdictions all over the country. But in recent years, most have chosen to file either in Delaware, where many business are incorporated, and New York. As a result, each has developed a reputation for having the resources — and the judicial expertise — to handle huge bankruptcies.

But according to the NYT article, Delaware could be pulling up third in the running, largely because of rulings that make it hard to restructure certain types of collective bargaining agreements.

So how does Detroit enter the picture? After all, according to the piece, Detroit's biggest bankruptcy case was by a 1994 filing by F&M Distributors, a retailer with \$328 million in assets — a far cry from what G.M. or Chrysler would presumably have on their books at the time of a filing. At the time it filed, for instance, Lehman Brothers had \$639 billion in assets.

And Penn's David Skeel says that a Detroit filing might be a bit risky for GM or Chrysler, given that the court has given few signals on how it would resolve complex issues.

That said, Detroit is making a serious play. The jurisdiction's six bankruptcy judges have adopted a rule that could appeal to the automakers' management. They will allow the chief bankruptcy judge to pick who will oversee a giant corporate filing, rather than leaving the selection to chance.

Furthermore, last week, Michigan's attorney general sent G.M. a letter urging it not to go out of state. "I am gravely concerned about the impact of any bankruptcy filing in a jurisdiction outside Michigan," Mike Cox, the attorney general, wrote in a letter to G.M.'s chief executive. Because the company's headquarters, many of its plants and hundreds of thousands of current and former employees are in Michigan, Cox continued, "any potential bankruptcy filing outside the state of Michigan seems bizarre."

For now, G.M. isn't saying what it has planned. If "GM is not able to complete the actions required, it will have no other alternative than to pursue an in-court restructuring, and we would be prepared to do so," said a company spokesman. "The filing location would be just one of many factors we would need to take into account."

Correction: An earlier version of this post incorrectly stated that Lehman Brothers had \$6 billion in assets at the time it filed.

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WaitingForNextYear

when we defend more than the Central Davision this (hopefully!)



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While We're Waiting ... The End of an Era in Motowa

April 27, 2009 By: Scott Category, Best of the Web

While We're Waiting aims to be the round-up of the recent WFNL-esqua information for your morning viewing. Have something you think we should see? Send it to our tips email in the sidebox.



But exactly going out on top: "It was great for a whole, a good long while, and then it got old. The Pistons got old. Their exittede got old. And perhaps most telling, Rasheed Wallace on old, in every way. His logs, this set. The angry edge he brought to the Pistons five years ago was indeed the missony piece in their 2003 obsorptionship. So now that it's over, 4's fitting that Wallace's edge is gone, and be should be too." [Bob Wojnowski/Lie Detroit News]

An early sesson gaseer at the Tribe "This team doeso" look as bad as they did a weak ago, but that 1-7 start is the stinkiest of this lot. Sparked by that Opening Day drubbing of the Yankees lest week and following 22-4 bloweat, the Tribe has gone 5-3 to semi-recover and get back one striking distance of a Al. Central race that's going to be peoled all season. But goven Cliff Lee's struggles to start the season, it's hard to look at their rotation and think that the Indians would go through some equally bad rough parelies." (Edva Kaduk/Big League Start)

Not had compare: "In leading the Cavahers to a four-game awarp of the rivat Pistone, James averaged 32 points, 11.3 rebounds and 7.5 assists, becoming just the third player in NHA history to average at least 30 points. 10 rebounds and seven essists in a single postseason series, according to ESPN. The other two? Larry Bord and Oscar Robertson." IMain Schmitt Bayer Main Dealer]

"This 2009 deaft could eventually be judged by the way its trades led to two potential franchise quarterbacks. The Browns gave up the No. 5 overall pick, which turned out to be Sanchez, and the No. 17 pick to the Tampa Bay Euccanoers, which turned out to be quarterback Josh Freeman. If quarterbacks Brady Quinn or Derek Anderson Jon't pan out in Cleveland, and Sanchez and/or Freeman are future NEL stars, expect many Clevelanders to utilize revisionist history down the toad." [James Walker/ESPN]

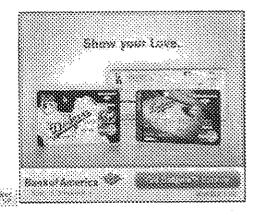
Alex Boons, UFA: "It was a humiding experience, that's for sure," Boxes said of varieting the draft all day. 'Desmed some lessons the hard way. But the 49ers called and were very interested and pashing for me, and night new it's the best fit for me.' [Drop Lesnerises/Flain Dauler]

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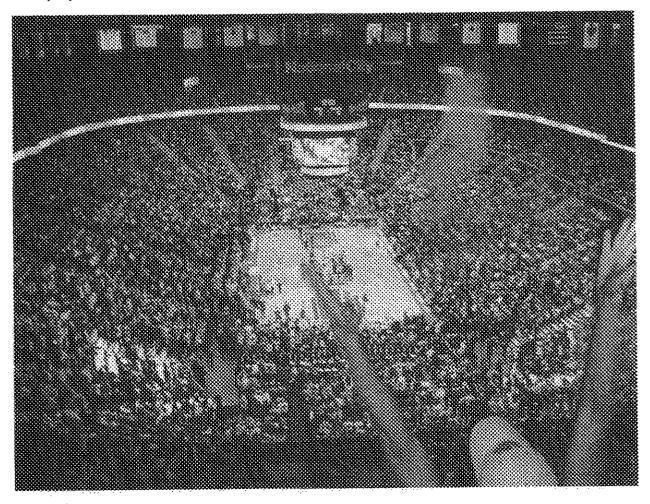
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COMMENTARY - Move over Motors we're taking over

By AME CENTERS - delibered Managing Editor

Tuosday, April 28, 2009 11:37 AM EDT

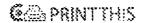


AUBURN BILLS, Mich. - "Is anybody left in Cleveland?"

One of the others at the Palace of Aubum Hills just stood there and watched in antazement as Cavaliers fans walked by in droves. If you didn't know any better, you would have thought you were to the Q.

Cleveland fans flocked to the Detroit suburb Sanday afternoon to watch the Cavahers roll past the Detroit Pistons 99-78 and complete a four-game sweep of the opening-mand MBA playoff series.





Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Council OKs deal to make Motown backdrop of 'Parking Wars'

Darren A. Nichols / The Detroit News

Deboit - The City Council gave its blessing this morning for the reality television show "Parking" Wars" to begin filming in the city.

Crews will begin immediately taping the reality show that follows parking-enforcement officers. They have been in the city filming background for the show.

"It is reality TV. I hope they know Detroit is on showcase," said Councilman Kwams Kenyatta, adding he would have liked to ensure parking workers got proper training before the show. "We need no more negative attention. We want to make it clear we have an opportunity to view the pilot before it is aired. Other than that, I support it."

Mayor Kenneih Cockrel Jr. and the Detroit Film Office were in discussions with Hybrid Films, which produces the program for A&E, to bring the series to Detroit for four seasons.

City officials said the show will provide people with a better understanding of municipal parking enforcement, which is often maligned for its zealousness.

Detroit is a backdrop for another reality show, Animal Planet's "Animal Cops," which sometimes follows Michigan Humane Society officers. Mayoral spokesman Daniel Chemin said the show did not have a permit to film in Detroit.

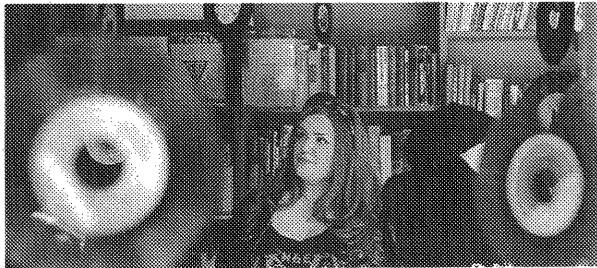
The show is expected to generate \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year in economic impact to the city. Chemin said.

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Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the exticle.

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Vineradoy 36 April 7008



Floating 7 mobes at Debrik Threads with whilef and milital promoter librarity Boelens. (Marvis Chanuta

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Detroit in The News

April 28, 2000

Women's culture zine creates city guide to find Motown's 'test best' Source: Yeung Zine

Ventre Zine, a women's culture site, dose a city guide to Dabbit and captured it guits wall.

Except:

Detroit's culture and cadence have long been defined, respectively, by its now infamous car inclusivy and its prodigious music legacy, Nearly every American genre shares its roots with Detroit's musical traditions. From J Dilla and Matrin Gaye to MO5 and Detrick May, Detroit's creative footprint spreads for and wide.

A city whose repression often precedes it. Detroit esems to be in a constant process of revitalization, in recent years, the city has poured funding into the downtown neighborhood to bring residents back within city limits. The money went, in part, to new baseball and football stadiums and three new basinos, However, these places do not house the essence of this shirking city, it is within the neighborhoods, music venues, and markets that you'll find the real peat of Motown.

Read the entire guide here.

Reighborhoods: Micholm , New Center , Cordover , Eastern Market , Conntiner Defroit

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Cavaliers were already banging at the doors of the finance room.

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SEES NOW Programmes - Uprobed user Unskridger WEA PAY Shop Challenges Skindly porote have been able to the HER Easter Rissen Unbook for their 122 St. is Base Beste At 60800?

over the top. It night cound like heresy to the long-worshipping fans of Fracier, Reed, Bradley and DeBusschure in New York, but the Pistons were the 21th century version of the classic

Truth is, the sun set on their empire in the spring of 2007. That's when Lestron James closed out that played game by scoring his team's final 25 points, serving notice that the

But for the better part of the time from 2003 to 2008, the Pistons were the gold standard for consistency and compatitiveness, reaching this straight Eastern Conference finals.

The bigologist, of course, was their 2004 MBA title, their five-game tripsout of the Lakers that to rought a communitare and by the sett-absorbed run of Shey and Kribe and Phil.

They were the enti-Lakers in so many different ways, far from the Hollywood spotlight and

for from the internal inchening, with Chauncey Williams, Hamilton, Prince and Ben Wallace, the Pistons were already congealing into cornething special. Then when Rasherd Wallace's stritude and ability was added to the mix, they had enough to get over the Lakers and go

Noticies, sharing the ball, studing the burden, the team always greater than the sum of its individual perts.

turny Brown was their Red Hobbinso, the head coach who didn't just want to him the

games, but because on a playing them and winning them the right way.

To basketball purists, it was part vindication and all sheer joy to see the Pistona and their "no superstar" lineup discombobulate and defeat the mighty Lakers, who were so frustrated that Shaquille O'Neal got himself traded to Mismi, Phil Jackson slinked off into exile to clear his head and Kube Bryant was left behind in purgatory.

Can way hady forget ideal blocme scene a year later, when a TV camera got into the Pistona hookide during a timeout in the hand-hought NBA Finals series against San Artscree? And before invaking the huddle, Chart Larry Brown kinkert up at his players and said: "I have YOU GILYE.

The Astons lost that series in seven games, but through all those games and all those series and all those years they never lost their commitment to each other that made them so unique in a league that had long ago said its soul to the individual star.

Oh, Chaptings Stillips never had to tack town to anyone in terms of playing the starring role when the clock can down and the game got tabe. But the real key to Mr. Big Shot was that he never acted like one.

word by bran blindbury

Statebases for the society.

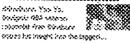


Hamilton made running and moving wideout the ball

No Charles With Break Sitteets leaving nates or his passes and be nther bled become

arenney, Federa discussion RSA printervite han binadaay sass dus New Others Kontes removing for Sta.





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festiverable again - along with that clear foremash - and showed a generation of fens whel'd grown up thinking the genue was nothing but stam dunks and 3-point bombs that a mid-range jumper could be as specify as a stiletto.

Prince was their utility man, who could food up that stow-release jumper at just the right time, use that lanky frame to climb the ladder on the baseline for a dunk or run down Resigns Miller from about half a mile away to block a shot that could save a sories.

They were by beat's headband and his francisius resounding and defense and they were PA armounces John Mason's menic work behind the microphone. "Delicitions take-heb-ball?" The Pistons were the first to bring tampies of fine licking up toward the neiting during the introduction of the starting lineups, which was fitting for a team that always delivered the

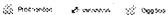
Of course, while every fire eventually becomes cool embers, perhaps the Pistors could have kept right on burning longer if GM Joe Dumars hadn't reached to make that blunder of Darko Mikir with the No. 2 overoll pick in the 2003 droft. If Dumens had just listened to prostroomly everyone also in the world, then Carmete Anthony and Billups might abli be empaking havon together in the Bastian Conference side of the bracket instead of reading it up to Denver.

It's over now, good with a whimper increasi of a bang and all Stor's less are the bade remots to sent the pieces scattering like furtature at an estate sale.

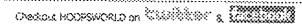
Breskups happen, even in Motown. But the music the Pistons made together should stay in our treads.

The Cost to a year.









Abs: on HOCPSWORLD fooley:

Farneri NBA columnist Fran Bilnebury makes his weekly visit to inDOPSWORLD today, taking ide back on a time retire the Detroic Platore were seriorly the league's either . In the eye of

NBA Commissioner David Startt addressed the economy and how it will impact the waspie on Turesday riight. Storeams 1760 free agency world be as bout as you thought, but 2010 chids be course that has forced.

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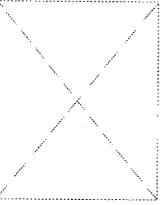
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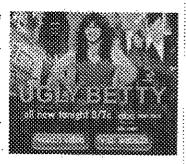
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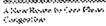
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Auto Bess

Michigan is Still MoTown For Asian Carmakers As Well As GM-Ford-Chrysler

Posted by: David Kiley on April 29



The Motor City, even after this great downstring and flogging of General Motors and Chrysler, is far from dead in the car business as some would have you believe

I was struck by this quote today in The Wall Suset Journal. "It's a pretty safe bet that Detroit is not going to be Motown in the very near future." said John Heitmann, a professor at the University of Dayton who studies the surfo industry.

The story goes on to talk about the growth of the auto sector in China and India relative to the U.S.

Couple of things to remember

Automakers may not be building any new assembly plants in Michigan, but there is a teason why <u>Toyota</u>. Honda. <u>Hyundai-Kia</u> and <u>Nissan</u> all have <u>major tech centers in the Arm Arbor-Farmington Fills area. There is more automotive intellectual capital base than most places on earth. Michigan, I would predict, will remain a major intellectual bub, and vehicle testing hub, for the auto industry.</u>

You know where the technical development for the Toyota Tundra, Avalon, Camry, Lexus RX, Nissan Altima and Titan, Hyundai Sonata, Santa Fe and Veracrus were largely carried out? Michigan.

You know where the Chinese and Indian carmakers testing the waters for the U.S. market do most of their vehicle certifications? Michigan. You know where the nation's police car standards are set and re-set? Michigan.

There had been some wacky estimates of the U.S. auto industry going to 20 million units a few years ago. But let's not get carried away. Without the meession, the real demand is probably at about 13 million right now, up from the 10 million we will likely see this year. But consider that you have two generations of consumers/drivers coming up, Gen Y and the Gen Z(born after 1996) that are bigger than the baby boom. And with baby boomers having a lot of living and car buying to do yet, that sounds like a lot of vehicles to buy. A lot more than we are selling today, and well North of 13 million by 2015-2020 when the financial and demographic cycles should again favor car buying.

True, no-one is looking to reclaim an old assembly plant in Michigan. Brownfield auto plants are not popular with automakers. And none of them want to take over a plant that has a UAW Local nearby. That's just the truth.

It's tough to think of a city with an average house price of \$18,000 as the hub of anything. But Detroit isn't just about the city of Betroit. You have to consider all of Southeast Michigan as the hub.

Ford is still in Dearborn, and doing quite well. Thirty miles to the West is the Ann Arbor hub. The tri-angle strenching from Auburn Hills, down to Detroit. West to Ann Arbor with Farmington Hills in the middle, is really MoTown.

Say what you want about China and India as growth markets. But the volume of vehicles that corn auto companies their biggest profits get sold in far greater numbers in the U.S. than elsewhere. If the U.S. wasn't so important, than why are Frat, Reparkt. Mahindra and Mahandra, Goely. Chary. BYD and Great Wall all trying to hatch an entry, or re-entry, into the U.S. market at the same time Saturn, Saab, Poutiac and Flummer are exiting?

Just questions to ponder for those ready to toe-tug Detroit.

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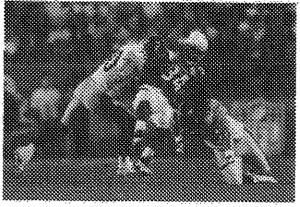
About

Want the straight scoop on the auto industry? Detroit bureau chief <u>David Welch</u> and auto beat veteraus <u>David Kiley</u>. <u>Dexter Roberts</u> and <u>Ian Rowley</u> bring daily scoop, keen observations and provocative perspective on the auto business from around the globe. Read their take on such unighty issues as Detroit's attempt at a comeback, Toyota's quest for dominance and the search for an efficient car.

RSS Food. Amg Base

Two-time Super Bowl chatopion and seven-year veteran Larry Poofe has reportedly beau informed of his impending release by the Pittsburgh Steelers, and he might be bringing his set back home...

Larry Foote to be Released, Motown Bound?



Two-time Super-Book champion and seven-year veteran Larry Socie has reportedly been informed of his impending release by the Pittsburgh Steelers, and he might be bringing his net back home.

The Petroit eative was mentioned in remors of a possible toturn to Detroit earlier this offsesson, according to acquaintances of the former Michigan linebacker. Fonts has been, or presumably soon will be, granted his telease from the Steelers, making him a free agent able to seek an accord with any club.

From his expressed a desire to make a positive impact on the local Detroit community, and he would fit nicely smack in the middle of a Lion defense that has had considerable trouble stopping the run in recent seasons.

Many fans question, and rightfully so, the ability of the undereized linebackers Detroit selected in the deaft this past received to step in and make a difference in solidifying the middle of the Detroit defense. Posts could be the answer to their prayers.

Only 28 and still productive, Foots would be released primarily for financial reasons, though the Steelers did want Lawrence Transcone to see more playing time. Moreover, he seems intrigued by the tites of playing in his bone city.

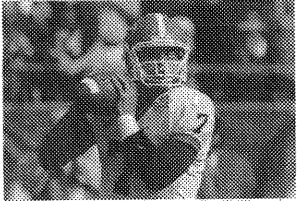
Detroit is always No. 1. I mean, my agent is taiking to them about me coming home, and we'll go from there. But no question about it, that's my first choice."

Given the state of their roster at the moment, all of Michigan is hoping that Poote is the organization's first choice, too.

EREDBACK

The 2009 NFL Draft will transpire this weekend at Eadlo City Music Hell in New York City and how in Detroit are imploring the Lions organisation to select infrom University of Georgia quarterback ...

Matthew Stafford Will Exorcise the "Curse Of Bobby Layne."



The 2009 NM. Fruit will transpire this weekend at Radio City Music Hall in New York City and isns in Detroit are imploring the Lions organization to select former University of Georgia quarterback Matthew Stafford with the first pick to finally exceptse the "Curse of Bobby Layte."

Layne, who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Pame in 1967 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1968, quarrerbacked the publicle Goos franchise during some of their rare glorious years in the 1950s.

Layne, a five-time Fro-Bond selection that Sports Illustrated named "The Toughest Quarterback Who liver Land," helped lead the Lione to three league championships from 1950 to 1958 before their makleriess brass traded their brave signal-paller to the Fittsburgh Steelers.

In response to being jettisoned from Motorin, Leyne, who was ranked tio. 52 on The Sporting Natis list of Football's 100 Greatest Players, allogadly predicted that the Lions "would not win for 50 years."

Curiously, Detroit has recorded one mossly obpoli cletory since Layne's proclamation and the Lions have accumulated the worst winning percentage of any team in the NFL during this omittous 50-year span.

On the 50th anniversary of Layne's carse, the 2008 Lions established a benchmark for futility by becoming the only team in MPL history to lose all 16 regular-season games and finish with a disgraceful mark of 9-16.

Most pigskin analysis project that the Gens will select Stafford first overall this Schurday afternoon and even Detroit's new Head Coach, Jim Schwartz, admined his bean likely needs to eddress their precarious quarterback situation.

"We probably time to find a replacement for Bobby Layne," said Schwartz, who was officially birst in The Motor City this past Jaconovy.

Stafford, 21, the MVP of the 2000 Capital Ose Bowl who ironically graduated from the same Highland Park High School in Dallas on Leyne did in 1944, is aware of Layne's logacy and he is undenoted at the prospect of suppliing the curse.

"I forms about the name," said Statiturd, a player renowned frothell analyst Mal Kiper, it, projected as an eventual top pack in the draft before he even took a snap for the fittlidage. "I know he went to my high school. It's crass, it mally is weird to thick about. It's kind of exci irony. I guess, that it could happen."

Detroit will always have their Mackeycom meetker. But perhaps Stufford can generate an excitement at Ford

Field not lekt since Barry Sanders stopped rusning in the crime-laden sity after be refired in 1979.
"I don't knew if it's destiny, but I'd love to have the opportunity to be a Idea, for sure."
Residents of Cetroit should lorget shout The Eminem Show. It's time for the long-overdue premiere of Matthew Stafford in Mutawa.
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SUNFOVER



The Chrysler Bankruptcy

Motown Shutdown

Joann Maker, 04,37,09, \$115 PM ET

DETROIT - DETROIT—Despite the Oberra administration's effort to manage a quick and smooth bankruptcy process for Chrysler, Detroit's worst nightmare is already coming true

Omysier says most of its manufacturing operations will cease operation while it is in tenkruptoy, which, combined with a rolling 90-day shuddown by most of General Motors' factories, and a week-long business shuddown in Mexico to combat swine flu, could jeopardize the entire North American auto industry.

Thursday's extended factory shutdown earlt shock waves through an aiready fragite supply chain trying to cope with a precipitous collapse in auto sales. "You're talking about two-thinds of the industry," said David Andrea, vice president of the Original Europement Suppliers Association

Last November, the Center for Automotive Research forecast that should one or more U.S. automakers fail in 2009, the entire inclustry would be affected, including foreign manufacturers like Toyots and Handa. The group forecast 2.5 million lost jubs and 350 billion less in government tex revenue the first year. That didn't include further losses that would result from production outbacks in Mexico or Canada, whether because of bankruptcy or flu.

Chrysler's benincipley was not entirely unexpected, as the Obems administration had flegged that as a potential outcome last month when it gave Chrysler a deadline of Thursday to strike an alliance with Italy's Flat.

But auto parts suppliers didn't expect the filing to include a prolonged factory shutdown of at least 30 to 60 days—especially on top of the GM production cuts announced earlier in the week—nor did they entidipate Thursday's announcement out of Mexico, which is home to several nuncred auto suppliers and a half dozen major auto assembly plants.

The combined production cuts could have major implications for other automakers, including Ford Metor, Toyota and Honda, which rally on the same North American parts suppliers.

"I'm alraid what we end up having is what we were frying to avoid, which is an industry white-out, where the entire industry goes down," added Elimberty Rodriquez, of turnaround advisory firm Grant-Thornton

Rodriguez said she had believed a Chrysler bankruptcy would give GM some leverage to have lenders and other stakeholders to make concessions during its own talks to evert bentruptcy this month. "But this sight-week shutdown is going to make everybody sit back and seriously re-think whether they want to deal with GM at this point."

The domino effect will be substantial. The cuts don't like huri GM and Chrysler, but potentially Ford, Toyota. Honds, Hyundal and others. Automakers that are not surviving on federal loans have been subsidizing their ailing suppliers for months in an effort to keep parts flowing to their factories. "You're going to have to pay a lot more to ensure parts if they're only operating at 20% opposity," she said.

Forcings not needed government assistance, but Chief Executive Alan Mulally has said his top concern is the health of the supplier industry, given the weak economy and the troubles at GM and Chrysler

Spokesmen Mark Truby said Thersday that Ford doesn't enticipate any disruption to its business at this time, but added, "We have been and will continue to monitor the health of the supply base very carefully and take any steps necessary to minimize supply disruptions."

President Obama's task force on autos has said it is aware of the delicate health of auto suppliers, and in March it announced a

\$5 billion program to ensure they would be paid by GM and Chrysler, no matter what happened. But that safety net is still not fully in place, said Andrea.

Besides, the federal help is most if production shuts down, said Rodriquez. "If they don't ship for 60 days, there are no receivables to insure."

Andrea said May and June will be a "disaster" for suppliers, but the full effect will be felt in August and September when their cash flow dries up.

On Thursday, Standard & Poor's put six major auto suppliers on CreditWatch, with negative implications, following Chrysler's bankruptcy. They are Harman International Industries, Johnson Controls, Magna International, Shiloh Industries, Stoneridge and TRW Automotive.

"We believe potential systemic risks could arise because of the interconnectedness of the North American supply base," S&P said in a statement. For example, it said, a number of smaller, Tier II suppliers could fail because of the Chrysler bankruptcy filing or the extended assembly plant shutdowns being planned by GM for the next several months, even if GM avoids a bankruptcy filing. "This could pose a problem for suppliers that purchase parts from these smaller suppliers, or even indirectly force automakers to temporarily idle some plants."

Print Story

Quackery and faith healing in Motown [Respectful Insolence]

I've complained quite a bit about the news media in my hometown. Indeed, about a year ago, I was stunned at how utterly credulous one TV reporter was about--of all things--orbs. I mean, orbs! Even dedicated ghosthunters don't push orbs much anymore, realizing that they are nothing more than reflections or specks of dust reflecting lights in photographs. Then there's Steve Wilson and his forays into anti-vaccine nonsense, in which he recycles some of the oldest, most tired, most highly debunked canards. Lately, it's been some additional crappy reporting about Gardasil and a recent "autism" conference that was in reality nothing more than an autism quackfest. The list goes on.

Unfortunately, I learned that yesterday, The Detroit Free Press, which won a Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on the text message scandal that brought down Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick last year and has embarked on an innovative but risky experiment in which it only delivers newspapers three days a week and provides the rest online, could apparently use some of that reporting chops and business savvy in dealing with health reporting. I'm referring to some serious badness that appeared in its Sunday edition, a one-two punch of woo that decimated in one fell swoop its credibility on health issues. Sadly, this sort of thing is all too typical of local newspapers, but when they hit my hometown paper, one I've been reading for well over 30 years on and off even when I didn't live in Detroit anymore; so I couldn't let it pass unnoticed.

Let's start with item one, which appeared in the Life section under "Health" and reads like a paid infomercial more than anything else, an article entitled <u>Detox at Detroit's De'Spa Elite</u>:

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It looks like Walt Stafford is going to be the pick at one. This is obviously a tough choice for the Lions considering that no player has pushed themselves to the top of the heap, and there's ...

The Motown Conundrum



It looks like Matt Staiford is going to be the pick at one. This is obviously a tough choice for the Lions considering that no player has pushed themselves to the top of the hosp, and there's a handful of gays the Lions could make a solid case for choosing. That hasn't been the case in recent drufts.

Think about it. You have Stafford, Jason Smith and Aaron Curry.

However, you can make a case Mark Sanchez is better than Stafford—as many teams have done on their boards—and Eugene Mouros over Smith. That's five guys. Michael Crabtroe is the best player on some team's boards—though the Detroit front office would be run out of town faster than Elliy Gillispic if they pick another receiver.

It's too bad the Lions have the member one pick this year. With a dad that is a buge Lions fan, I've gone over the Lions situation in this draft more than the goys from the Warren Commission over the Zaprader film, and we both still don't have a dear idea of what the Lions should do. I think next year would be a nice year to be sitting with the top pick.

You're going to have guys like Sam Bradford and Colt McCoy available—most likely; Bradford still hasn't ruled out returning for a fifth year—who are both supposed to be top prospects when they come out. I would be more excited about those two, especially Bradford.

If I were the Lions, I would consider taking one of the tackles because you have to believe the Lions aren't getting out of the top five picks next year. Even if they improve, will they get more than three or four wins?

It would be hard to believe they won't be in position for a high pick next year. I know from office people can't take risks like thus, but it is hard to argue with.

The pick has seemed to be narrowed down to Curry and Stafford. Why not a tackle?

Well, probably because a close second behind WB in "we pick this position with as much success as

Isiah Thomas had running the Knicks" is offensive lineman.

The Lions have picked studs like Stockar McDougle, Jeff Backus, and Aaron Gibson earlier this decade, and last year's first rounder, Gosder Cherilus, didn't do much last year. That has to be the reason the front office is shying away from Smith and Monroe.

Then you can say those weren't high first rounders (or even first rounders in Gibson's case) and that Joey Harrington was a huge bust, so this is why the Lions have such a tough pick this year. Every single way they go there will be questions.

This article is also featured on The Summit City Report

FEEDBACK

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Detroit greets Chrysler bankruptcy with dismay

Haiti News.Net Friday 1st May, 2009

While many in the United States and elsewhere say bankruptcy is the best thing for Chrysler, those that are affected most are bitterly disappointed.

"It's so depressing here, there's sadness everywhere," one resident told the local daily, The Detroit News.

Jenine Holmes, who grew up in Detroit and now lives in New York, wrote in a column in the local paper Friday, "My parents were Ford folks. My dad didn't work in the plants but made his living indirectly from them. His record shop near Ford's Rouge River Plant would bustle with workers in uniforms scented with oil and sweat that had come in to purchase the latest Jackson Five or Marvin Gaye release. The day would end with the Motown Sound seeping through the open front doors of homes or from the lowered windows of American-made cars driven by American workers."

"But no more," she wrote.

"Many blame Detroit for its downfall, but we Americans love big cars. Even if automakers had had the foresight to produce a fuel-efficient, environmentally correct hybrid car, how many of us would have purchased it?"

"For years, the Big Three automakers kept giving a nation of auto lovers the candy we wanted. And now the world censures Detroit for not passing out castor oil instead," Holmes wrote.

"There is little to cheer about in today's Michigan. Factories are closing. The housing market has imploded. And the workers who once labored for a decent wage and good health benefits in the auto industry have seen their lives stalled," said Holmes.

In an editorial published in Friday's edition of The Detroit News, the message was similar. The bankruptcy is bad enough, the newspaper says, but with the automaker majority-owned by the federal government and United Auto Workers union, thats something else.

The newspaper is also wary at whether the passage of bankruptcy will be as smooth for Chrysler as most expect.

Commenting on President Barack Obama's promise that the process would be quick and neat, the paper says "but the federal bankruptcy court is not under the authority of the White House, and a judge may see things differently."

"Bankruptcy is a huge risk and could get much messier and last far longer than the president predicts," says the editorial.

The newspaper also took issue with the reason Chrysler was forced into

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bankruptcy, the fact that the bondholders, who along with the banks and the government provided the capital for the company to survive, would not agree to the level the government wanted them to discount their debt by.

"Chrysler was forced into bankruptcy because some of its investors declined the government's offer of what amounted to about 29 cents on the dollar. These "speculators," as Obama called them, received a harsh scolding from the president. That is more than a little unfair," said The Detroit News editorial.

"Bondholders were being asked to make a far greater sacrifice than either the government or the union and, as secured creditors, might do better in bankruptcy. They have a fiduciary responsibility to their own investors that must be considered."

The newspaper pointed out that if Chrysler is not returned to a normalownership structure it will continue to face uncertainty.

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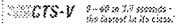
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Jim Bob Detroit greets Chrysler bankruptcy with dismay 05-02-09, 03:17 AM I really have a lot of sympathy for brain dead auto workers who fail to acknowledge the truth. Lee lacocca said it best when he said there is no way a 20 dollar an hour man can afford a 50 - 75 dollar an hour car. Figure it out people. Personally, I prefer something that will last a few years, big or small. Death's Hand About scumbags... 05-02-09, 04:44 AM @ Jim Bob You are a piece of crap and you will get what is coming to you. kawahchan Unfortunately ... 05-02-09, 11:32 AM You ALL UAW hotshots and guys did casted Michigan's 17 Electoral Voted for this black Socialist Barack Hussein Obama who helps to put a chain & lock on US auto-industries, right? Republicans can help to lobby Malaysia to buy the closeout "Pontiac" copyright to assemble in Malaysia, there are many smart Chinese-Malaysian engineers can modify "Pontiac" to run on their country's biofuels smoothly and powerfully. It is worth to purchase the GM closeout "Pontiac" copyright because this classic can save a lot of money on research and design the engine, no need to recall "Pontiac" products. * If the public unemployed layoffs are interested in learning the applications how to apply the Recycled Plastic beads (as the muscles), the Recycled Canfood cans (as the bones) to build the Wind-power's

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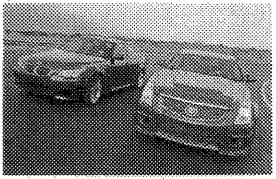


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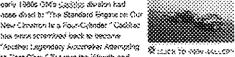


Comparisons 2009 8919 PAS or 2009 Cadifics CTS-V Murror, Mirror, The Skip, 325 Number Resemble to the \$66,700 Meason Deputigation: Which is the Pakest Supersider of Trom ART

Sy Asthur St. Antoline Photography by Wesley Allison

Cherch Deaths Publish for a seek Cadillac STS-95

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Classify, Mistown 9,0 was eigling its that matchup against Munich.

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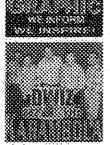
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